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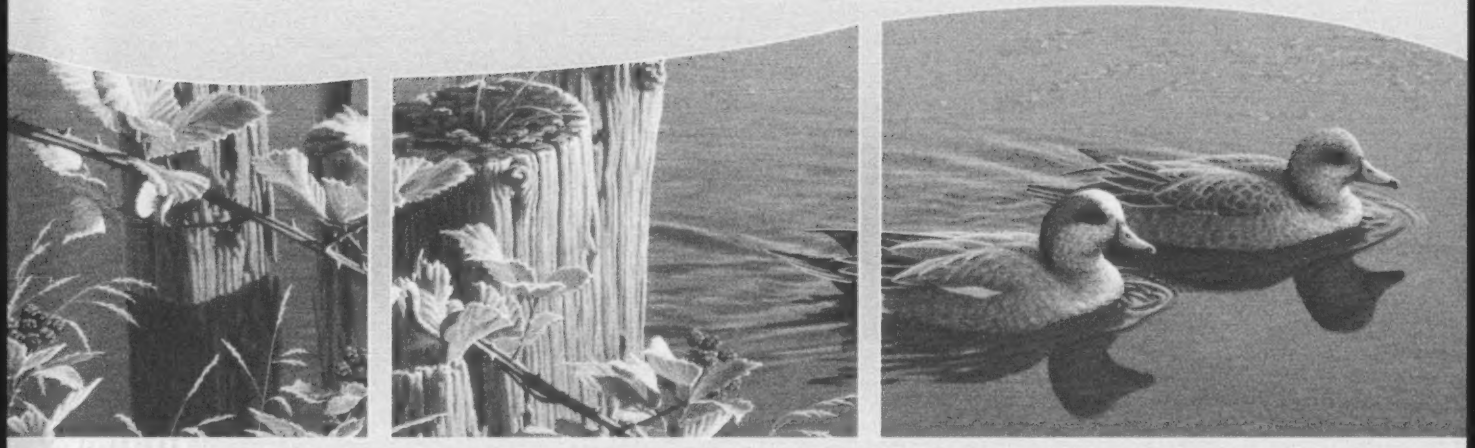
Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations

(Including Regulation Proposals for Overabundant Species)

December 2011

Canadian Wildlife Service
Waterfowl Committee

CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report
Number 35



Canada

For more information on migratory birds, please visit the following website:

Environment Canada's Migratory Birds website:
www.ec.gc.ca/nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=FDF836EF-1

Cover Art:

The Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, entitled *Along the Edgewater*, features the American Wigeon. It is a creation of the Canadian wildlife artist W. Allan Hancock of British Columbia.

Through a special partnership with Environment Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada receives the revenues from the sale of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, purchased primarily by waterfowl hunters to validate their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits. The conservation stamp is also sold to stamp and print collectors and those interested in contributing to habitat conservation. In 2010–2011, Wildlife Habitat Canada provided 36 grants totalling approximately $1.2 million. This in turn helped leverage an additional $18.8 million in partner funding for these projects, resulting in the conservation of 280 603 acres of wildlife habitat across Canada (Wildlife Habitat Canada 2011).

For more information on Wildlife Habitat Canada or the conservation stamp and print program, please call Wildlife Habitat Canada at 613-722-2090 (in the Ottawa region) or toll-free at 1-800-669-7919. You can also obtain this information from Wildlife Habitat Canada's website at www.whc.org.

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Authors:

This report was prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee, and edited by Renée Bergeron (CWS, National Office).

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Comments:

Comments regarding this report, the regulation-setting process or other concerns relating to national migratory game birds should be sent to the Director of Population and Conservation Management Division at the national office of the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada at the following address:

351 St. Joseph Boulevard, Gatineau QC K1A 0H3

Region-specific comments should be sent to the appropriate Regional Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Population Conservation Service, at the following addresses:

Atlantic Region: 17 Waterfowl Lane, P.O. Box 6227, Sackville, NB E4L 1G6

Quebec Region: 801–1550 D'Estimauville Avenue, Québec QC G1V 3W5

Ontario Region: 4905 Dufferin Street, Toronto ON M3H 5T4

Prairie and Northern Region: Twin Atria No. 2, 4999 98 Avenue, Edmonton AB T6B 2X3

Pacific and Yukon Region: 5421 Robertson Road, R.R. #1, Delta BC V4K 3N2

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www.ec.gc.ca/rcom-mbhr/default.asp?lang=en&n=762c28ab-1

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Background

Canadian hunting regulations for migratory game birds are reviewed annually by Environment Canada, with input from the provinces and territories and a range of other interested stakeholders. As part of this process, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) of Environment Canada produces three reports each year. The first report, *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada* (commonly called the November report), contains population and other biological information on migratory game birds, and thus provides the scientific basis for management. The second report, *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations (including Regulation Proposals for Overabundant Species)* (the December report), outlines the proposed changes to the annual hunting regulations, and other proposed amendments to the *Migratory Birds Regulations*. Proposals for hunting regulations are developed in accordance with the *Objectives and Guidelines for the Establishment of National Regulations for Migratory Game Bird Hunting* (see Appendix B of this report). The third report, *Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada* (the July report), summarizes the hunting regulations for the upcoming hunting season. The three reports are distributed to organizations and individuals with an interest in migratory game bird conservation, to provide an opportunity for input into the development of hunting regulations in this country.

The process for development of regulations in Canada requires that any changes be in the form of final proposals by late February of each year. That means that regulations must be set without the benefit of knowledge about the breeding conditions and production forecasts of the coming year. This does not usually present difficulties because the hunting regulations are based on trends over several years, but in some cases the results from recent harvest surveys or breeding population surveys conducted in May and June will indicate that changes in the national approach are needed to ensure conservation of migratory game birds. In this case, Environment Canada will process a regulatory amendment and issue a bulletin updating these regulations.

Annual Schedule for the Development of Hunting Regulations

The annual schedule for the development of hunting regulations is based on the requirement to have the annual hunting regulations made into law by early June of each year:

- End of November – *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada* report, containing biological information on migratory game birds, is finalized. In early January, it is distributed and posted on the Environment Canada (EC) Nature website by CWS–HQ Population and Conservation Management Division (PCMD).
- November – CWS regional offices develop proposals for hunting regulations in consultations with the provinces and territories and interested stakeholders.
- December 1 – CWS regions provide, to CWS–PCMD and CWS Wildlife Program Support Division (WPSD), the proposed changes to hunting regulations (with justifications) for the upcoming year, as well as any other information that should be included in the report *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations*, including advance notice on items for future years.
- Early to mid-January – CWS–PCMD posts on the EC Nature website and distributes the *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations* report containing the regulation proposals to allow for public, inter-regional and international consultation.
- February 28 – Any amendments to the proposed changes to hunting regulations are due to CWS-PCMD and CWS-WPSD following the consultation period.
- March through April – CWS–WPSD prepares legal documents and obtains approvals of the regulatory proposals.
- Early June – Hunting regulations become law.
- June through July – Hunting regulation summaries are printed and distributed to Canada Post outlets and posted on the EC website.
- Early July – CWS–PCMD distributes and posts, on the EC Nature website, the July report containing the final proposals for hunting regulations and the hunting regulation summaries.

Note to United States Readers

The annual cycle of regulation development in Canada is earlier than that in the United States. To meet the requirements of the Canadian regulatory process, proposals for hunting regulations must be finalized no later than late February each year. Canadian representatives at the summer Flyway Council meetings and other hearings are not reporting on what is being considered, but on what has been passed into law.

American Black Duck Harvest Strategy

Progress on the development of an international American Black Duck harvest strategy based on the principles of adaptive harvest management has been published in previous CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports. To summarize, in fall 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CWS agreed to work towards finalizing an adaptive harvest management approach to determine appropriate levels of harvest for American Black Ducks in Canada and the U.S., based on breeding ground survey information. Models were initially based on wintering ground surveys, but they are currently being revised to include breeding pair information.

Meanwhile, Canada and the U.S. (including CWS, USFWS, eastern provinces and states of the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways) agreed on an interim international harvest strategy that has been in effect for the 2008–2009 and 2011–2012 seasons. The interim strategy was extended for an additional year (2012–2013) to allow for the completion of a formal strategy based on the principles of adaptive harvest management.

The interim harvest strategy is prescriptive, in that it calls for no substantive changes in hunting regulations unless the Black Duck breeding population, averaged over the most recent three years, exceeds or falls below the long-term average breeding population by 15% or more (the long-term average breeding population is defined as the average composite estimate for the entire survey area between 1998 and 2007 inclusive). It allows additional harvest opportunity (commensurate with the population increase) if the three-year average breeding population exceeds the long-term average by 15% or more, and requires reduction of harvest opportunity if the three-year average falls below the long-term average by 15% or more. The strategy is designed to share the Black Duck harvest equally between the two countries; however, recognizing incomplete control of harvest through regulations, it allows realized harvest in either country to vary between 40% and 60%.

The American Black Duck Harvest Strategy Working Group will continue to keep the appropriate regulatory consultative bodies in Canada and the U.S. informed of progress as tools are developed for implementation of adaptive harvest management for American Black Ducks. More details on the adaptive management study can be found on the following website: http://coopunit.forestry.uga.edu/blackduck

Management of Overabundant Snow Geese

Issue

The rapid growth of most Snow Goose populations is of great concern. A decade ago, comprehensive assessments of the environmental effects of the rapidly growing populations of mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese and Greater Snow Geese were realized by working groups of Canadian and American scientists. Their analyses are contained in the reports entitled *Arctic Ecosystems in Peril – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group* (Batt 1997) and *The Greater Snow Goose – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group* (Batt 1998). These working groups concluded that the increase in snow goose populations was primarily human induced. Improved farming practices supplying a steady food source along with the safety of refuges have resulted in increased survival and reproductive rates in Snow Geese. These populations have become so large that they are affecting the plant communities at staging areas and breeding grounds on which they and other species rely. Grazing and grubbing by geese not only permanently removes vegetation, but also changes soil salinity, nitrogen dynamics and moisture levels. The result is the alteration or elimination of the plant communities, which in all likelihood will not be restored. Although the Arctic is vast, the areas that support migrating and breeding geese and other companion species are limited in extent, and some areas are likely to become inhospitable for decades. Increasing crop damage is also an important consequence of the growing snow goose populations.

Increasing numbers of spring migrant Greater Snow Geese have been observed in recent years at the western edge of the spring staging range on agricultural lands of eastern Ontario. For the first time, special conservation measures for Snow Geese were implemented in eastern Ontario (beginning in spring 2012) to assist efforts already in place in Quebec to curtail the rapid population growth and reduce the population size of Greater Snow Geese.

A similar situation has been observed in recent years on the tidal marsh habitats in and around Restigouche County, New Brunswick. CWS, in concert with the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources, examined the possibility of establishing special conservation measures in New Brunswick and has decided not to proceed at this time.

Regulation

Several concurrent management measures are being undertaken to curtail the rapid population growth and reduce population size to a level consistent with the carrying capacity of the habitat. One measure attempts to increase the mortality rate of Snow Geese by two to three times the rate achieved prior to the introduction of special conservation measures. Beginning in 1999, an amendment to the *Migratory Birds Regulations* created special conditions under which hunters were encouraged to take overabundant species for conservation reasons and, in some cases and subject to specific controls, to use exceptional methods and equipment such as electronic calls and bait. The 1999 and 2000 regulations applied in selected areas of Quebec and Manitoba. Beginning in spring 2001, special conservation measures were also implemented in Saskatchewan and Nunavut, and similar measures will be implemented in Ontario in spring 2012. The dates and locations of application of these special conservation measures were determined in consultation with the provincial governments, other organizations and local communities.

Evaluation

Scientific studies were implemented to track progress toward the goals of reduced population growth and, ultimately, recovery by plant communities.

For Lesser Snow Geese, the original objectives were to increase the continental harvest to approximately 0.8 to 1.2 million birds annually (Rockwell *et al.* 1997). These projections were later challenged as being too conservative, and annual harvest requirements of 1.4 to 3.4 million birds were projected on the basis of updated information (Cooke *et al.* 2000; Rockwell and Ankney 2000).

An evaluation of the effectiveness of the special measures for mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese showed that overall, the balance of evidence favoured the conclusion that the midcontinent population has not declined as a result of the conservation measures, but instead has continued to grow, although perhaps at a reduced rate (Alisauskas *et al.* 2011). The authors concluded that the weighted survival probability for midcontinent Lesser Snow Geese essentially did not change between the period preceding the conservation measures (1989–1997) and during the conservation measures themselves (1998–2006). They estimated low harvest rates, which increased from 0.024 during 1989–1997 for the most northern of the Arctic colonies geese to only 0.027 during 1998–2006, and from 0.031 to only 0.037 for the more southern Arctic colonies. Alisauskas *et al.* (2011) concluded that the annual harvest did increase as a result of the conservation measures but failed to exceed 1 million adults in any year during the assessment period from 1989 to 2006. Part of the reason that increased harvest has not been sufficient to reduce midcontinent Lesser Snow Geese is that population size is likely much larger than previously thought.

In the case of Greater Snow Geese, the population objective adopted by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan is 500 000 birds, or about one-half of the nearly 1 million birds present in 1999. A recent evaluation demonstrated that special measures (among which the spring season was key) were successful in reducing the annual survival rate for adults from about 83% to about 72.5% (Calvert *et al.* 2007). This is reflected in the spring counts, which appear to have stabilized in recent years at about 1 million birds. In 2011 the population was estimated at 917 000 geese (Lefebvre 2011).

Models show that without a spring harvest, the population would quickly begin to grow rapidly once more (Gauthier and Reed 2007), as a result of climatic changes that favour good breeding conditions in the Arctic as well as improved feeding conditions (corn and other crops) on wintering and staging grounds. At the same time, it appears that the harvest in Canada (on average more than 36 000 birds have been taken each spring since 1999) has been maximized. Beginning in 2009, the eastern United States were permitted to harvest additional Greater Snow Geese under a special Conservation Order. A report of the Snow Goose, Brant and Swan Committee of the Atlantic Flyway Council (July 2011) indicated that the estimated harvest of 50 587 birds in Atlantic Flyway states for spring 2011 was more than twice the size of the estimate for the first year (i.e. 24 853 birds in 2009). Whether this additional harvest pressure will be sufficient to bring the population under control remains to be seen.

Canada's strategic plan for the 2005–2010 period lays out key directions for management of Greater Snow Geese (Bélanger and Lefebvre 2006). Among these are the following: maintain a good quality long-term survey to estimate the size of the continental population; monitor the response of the population to management measures; achieve the necessary harvest rates in Quebec; work with the USFWS and state governments toward increasing the harvest of Greater Snow Geese on wintering grounds in the United States; maintain good quality breeding and staging habitats in Quebec; maximize bird watching and hunting opportunities; and review crop damage prevention and compensation programs.

Regulation for 2012–2013

The special measures to be implemented in spring 2012 are posted on the CWS website: www.ec.gc.ca/rcom-mbhr/default.asp?lang=en&n=a297b56f-1 and are shown in Appendix A of this report. A special spring conservation season will be implemented for the first time in southeastern Ontario effective in 2012. It will begin on March 1 and end on May 31, 2012.

Manitoba and Nunavut are proposing to extend their current spring special conservation season for Snow Geese effective in 2013. In Manitoba, the conservation season would be extended to June 15 (currently ends on May 31) in Game Bird Hunting Zone 1, and throughout Nunavut, the season would begin on May 1 and end on June 30 (currently June 7).

Proposed Changes to Hunting Regulations for the 2012–2013 Season

CWS and the provinces and territories have jointly developed the regulatory proposals presented here. Other proposals consistent with these may be sent to the appropriate CWS Regional Director by any interested organization or individual. To facilitate the comparison of changes proposed in this text with current regulations, the summaries of the 2011–2012 *Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations* are included in Appendix C.

Newfoundland and Labrador

Restriction on the possession limit for Barrow's Goldeneye

It is proposed to decrease the possession limit of Barrow's Goldeneye in Newfoundland and Labrador from two birds to one. Barrow's Goldeneye – Eastern Population is considered a species of special concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. The current daily bag limit of one bird per day allows for the accidental harvest of this species, and as a result, the possession limit is also for one bird only. This measure is also proposed for the Maritime provinces, Quebec and Ontario.

CWS also continues to consider two amendments that may be proposed in the future:

- *New Murre Hunting Zone*

A notice of intent is given that a new murre hunting zone is proposed to be delineated within the Green Bay area of the existing Murre Hunting Zone 2. In this area, hunters see few murres during the current murre hunting season, and have requested a delay in the season dates to allow access to murres which occur there later in January and early February. The proposal under consideration is to delay the opening and closing dates of the murre hunting season within the new murre hunting zone by about two weeks.

To evaluate this regulatory proposal, CWS undertook a special hunter opinion survey during the winter of 2009–2010. Questionnaires were sent out to 6000 Migratory Game Bird Permit holders. About 1200 questionnaires were returned by hunters, resulting in a response rate of ~20%. The majority of murre hunters that reported their primary murre hunting area was within the proposed zone voted to accept the new zone and season. Community meetings may be held to determine the exact positioning of the boundaries, and other hunters' concerns.

- *Increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag limit for some migratory game birds*

A notice of intent is given that further consideration may be given to a proposal to increase possession limits to three times the daily bag limit for selected species of migratory game birds. Additional analysis and consultation will take place in 2012 to determine the appropriateness of this action.

This change is intended to increase opportunities for hunters who might otherwise be forced to stop hunting, or to gift their birds in order to continue hunting. Similar measures were put in place in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario in 2010, and in Quebec in 2011. It is being proposed for British Columbia for 2012.

Prince Edward Island

Restriction on the possession limit for Barrow's Goldeneye

It is proposed to decrease the possession limit of Barrow's Goldeneye in Prince Edward Island from two birds to one. Barrow's Goldeneye – Eastern Population is considered a species of special concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. The current daily bag limit of one bird per day allows for the accidental harvest of this species, and as a result, the possession limit is also for one bird only. This measure is also being proposed for Newfoundland and Labrador, the Maritime provinces, Quebec and Ontario.

CWS also continues to consider an amendment that may be proposed in the future:

- *Increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag limit for some migratory game birds*

A notice of intent is given that further consideration may be given to a proposal to increase possession limits to three times the daily bag limit for selected species of migratory game birds. Additional analysis and consultation will take place in 2012 to determine the appropriateness of this action.

This change is intended to increase opportunities for hunters who might otherwise be forced to stop hunting, or to gift their birds in order to continue hunting. Similar measures were put in place in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario in 2010, and in Quebec in 2011. It is being proposed for British Columbia for 2012.

Nova Scotia

Restriction on the possession limit for Barrow's Goldeneye

It is proposed to decrease the possession limit of Barrow's Goldeneye in Nova Scotia from two birds to one. Barrow's Goldeneye – Eastern Population is considered a species of special concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. The current daily bag limit of one bird per day allows for the accidental harvest of this species, and as a result, the possession limit is also for one bird only. This measure is also being proposed for Newfoundland and Labrador, the Maritime provinces, Quebec and Ontario.

Increasing opportunities to harvest Canada Geese

It is proposed to remove the current restriction that limits hunting to farmland only during the September goose seasons for the 2012–2013 hunting season.

Under existing regulations, hunters are allowed to possess six additional Canada geese harvested during the period for which early (September) goose seasons are open. At midnight on the last day of the early season, the possession of these six additional birds is no longer allowed. In order to allow hunters adequate opportunity to use geese legally harvested during the early season, **it is proposed** to modify possession limit restrictions by allowing the additional geese harvested during the September goose season to be possessed until the end of September.

Lastly, **it is proposed** to extend the early goose season to allow additional harvest opportunity. In 2012, this would result in an early goose season in Zone 1 to be open from September 4 through 18, inclusive; and in Zones 2 and 3, to be open from September 4 through 24, inclusive.

These changes are expected to allow an increase in harvest pressure on temperate-breeding Canada Geese, a stock of geese that continues to experience an increase in population size. This change also comes in response to requests from hunters in areas where access (farmland) is limited (e.g., southwest Nova Scotia). While allowing this additional harvest opportunity on temperate-breeding Canada Geese, the proposed regulations would continue to afford an appropriate level of protection to migrant Canada geese breeding in Newfoundland and Labrador that pass through the province later during fall.

Changing season dates and bag limit table structure

CWS is proposing additional changes to season dates and bag limit structure for parts of Nova Scotia in 2012–2013, in order to simplify the regulations and to be more consistent with other provincial jurisdictions.

It is proposed to remove the column identifying "additional seasons" for selected species and instead categorize harvested species into one of two categories as follows:

a) Ducks, other than Harlequin Ducks, Common and Red-Breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders, Scoters, Goldeneyes and Buffleheads; and
b) Common and Red-Breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders, Scoters, Goldeneyes and Buffleheads.

In Zones 2 and 3, **it is proposed** to delay the opening date by two weeks for those species identified in the above group "a". This would result in an opening date of October 22, and would also result in a delay in the closing date by a similar time interval (closing on January 15). In Zones 2 and 3, **it is also proposed** to establish a season opening date of October 8 for those species identified in the above group "b". This would also result in a modest delay in the closing date, with seasons closing on January 15.

The objective for the changes to duck seasons as identified above is in response to long-standing requests from hunters and hunter groups to shift seasons to a later time period. Based on analysis of existing harvest survey data, these changes are not expected to increase harvest appreciably, but should satisfy hunter requests for later duck hunting seasons in Nova Scotia.

It is proposed to delay the opening date for geese in Zones 2 and 3 by two weeks. Season

closure dates for geese in these zones would remain January 15. This change in timing continues to provide the maximum number of hunting days allowed under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* for these species; would result in consistent closing dates for geese and ducks in Zones 2 and 3; and could achieve a slight reduction in harvest pressure on migrant stocks of North Atlantic Population Canada Geese harvested in Nova Scotia.

CWS also continues to consider an amendment that may be proposed in the future:

- *Increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag limit for some migratory game birds*

A notice of intent is given that further consideration may be given to a proposal to increase possession limits to three times the daily bag limit for selected species of migratory game birds. Additional analysis and consultation will take place in 2012 to determine the appropriateness of this action.

This change is intended to increase opportunities for hunters who might otherwise be forced to stop hunting, or to gift their birds in order to continue hunting. Similar measures were put in place in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario in 2010, and in Quebec in 2011. It is being proposed for British Columbia for 2012.

New Brunswick

Restriction on the possession limit for Barrow's Goldeneye

It is proposed to decrease the possession limit of Barrow's Goldeneye in New Brunswick from two birds to one. Barrow's Goldeneye – Eastern Population is considered a species of special concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act.* The current daily bag limit of one bird per day allows for the accidental harvest of this species, and as a result, the possession limit is also for one bird only. This measure is also being proposed for Newfoundland and Labrador, the Maritime provinces, Quebec and Ontario.

Removing restrictions on geese

It is proposed to remove the current "farmland only" restrictions on hunting during the September goose seasons for the 2012–2013 hunting season. Under existing regulations, hunters are allowed to possess six additional Canada geese harvested during the period for which early (September) goose seasons are open. At midnight on the last day of the early season, the possession of these six additional birds is no longer allowed. In order to allow hunters adequate opportunity to use geese legally harvested during the early season, **it is proposed** to modify possession limit restrictions by allowing the additional geese harvested during the September goose season to be possessed until the end of September.

Lastly, **it is proposed** to extend the September goose season to allow additional harvest opportunity.

These changes are expected to allow an increase in harvest pressure on temperate-breeding Canada Geese, a stock of geese that continues to experience an increase in population size, and are supported by CWS and the Province of New Brunswick. While allowing this additional harvest opportunity, the proposed regulations would continue to afford an appropriate level of protection to migrant Canada Geese breeding in Newfoundland and Labrador that pass through the Province during fall.

CWS also continues to consider an amendment that may be proposed in the future:

- *Increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag limit for some migratory game birds*

A notice of intent is given that further consideration may be given to a proposal to increase possession limits to three times the daily bag limit for selected species of migratory game birds. Additional analysis and consultation will take place in 2012 to determine the appropriateness of this action.

This change is intended to increase opportunities for hunters who might otherwise be forced to stop hunting, or to gift their birds in order to continue hunting. Similar measures were put in place in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario in 2010, and in Quebec in 2011. It is being proposed for British Columbia for 2012.

Quebec

Removing restrictions for non-residents of Canada on bag limit for Woodcock

It is proposed to remove the daily bag limit restriction for Woodcock for non-residents (current daily bag limit of four). This change would increase the bag limit to the same as that for Canadian residents (current bag limit of eight), and harmonize the regulation with the rest of the country, where the bag limit for this species is the same for residents and non-residents.

This change is expected to have little effect on harvest of Woodcock. In 2010, non-resident hunters represented only 2% of all hunters in Quebec. Less than 20% of all hunters (residents and non-residents) harvest more than four Woodcock (CWS National Harvest Survey Data 2011). The population trend in Quebec is stable.

Effects of the proposed change would be evaluated by continuing to monitor hunter numbers and Woodcock harvest by residents and non-residents, and the status of the Woodcock population.

Restriction on the possession limit for Barrow's Goldeneye

It is proposed to decrease the possession limit of Barrow's Goldeneye in Quebec from two birds to one. Barrow's Goldeneye – Eastern Population is considered a species of special concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. The current daily bag limit of one bird per day allows for the accidental harvest of this species, and as a result, the possession limit is also for one bird only. This measure is also being proposed for Newfoundland and Labrador, the Maritime provinces and Ontario.

Ontario

Removing restrictions on the daily bag limit for Canada and Cackling Geese

It is proposed to remove the daily bag limit restrictions for Canada Geese in Provincial Wildlife Management Units (WMU) 83 and 86 in southwestern Ontario. This change would harmonize Canada Goose hunting regulations in these WMUs with the majority of other WMUs in the Southern Hunting District and may result in an increase in the harvest of temperate-breeding Canada Geese. Restrictions on the daily bag limit for Canada Geese in these WMUs were originally established to prevent overharvest of Southern James Bay Population (SJBP) Canada Geese. Recent analyses of band recovery data indicate that the harvest of SJBP Canada Geese in these WMUs is minimal and no greater than that for neighboring WMUs without restrictions. Daily bag limit restrictions remain unchanged for WMUs 82, 84, 85, 93, 94.

Increasing the possession limit for Canada and Cackling Geese

It is proposed to increase the possession limit of Canada Geese and Cackling Geese from 24 to 30 in all hunting districts in Ontario. This change would harmonize Canada Goose and Cackling Goose possession limits with other harvested migratory game bird species at three times the maximum daily bag limit, with the exception of Barrow's Goldeneye (see below). This harmonization is not expected to result in a significant change in the total number of Canada and Cackling geese harvested in Ontario.

Restriction on the possession limit for Barrow's Goldeneye

It is proposed to decrease the possession limit of Barrow's Goldeneye in Ontario from three birds to one. Barrow's Goldeneye – Eastern Population is considered a species of special concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. The current daily bag limit of one bird per day allows for the accidental harvest of this species, and as a result the possession limit is also for one bird only. This measure is also being proposed for Newfoundland and Labrador, the Maritime provinces and Quebec.

Establishing a Waterfowler Heritage Day

It is proposed to introduce a Waterfowler Heritage Day in Ontario starting in 2012. In the Southern and Central Hunting Districts, the Waterfowler Heritage Day would occur on the Saturday preceding the regular ducks, rails, moorhens, coots, snipe and geese hunting season; in the Northern and Hudson-James Bay Hunting Districts, the Waterfowler Heritage Day would occur on the first Saturday in September.

A Waterfowler Heritage Day would provide young hunters under the age of majority with an opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors also would have an opportunity to pass on their skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to young hunters.

One day would be removed from the end of the regular ducks, rails, moorhens, coots, snipe and geese hunting season in the Southern, Central and Northern Hunting Districts to allow for a Waterfowler Heritage Day. No change in season length is required in the Hudson-James Bay Hunting District because the Waterfowler Heritage Day occurs during the open ducks, rails, moorhens, coots, snipe and geese hunting season.

Waterfowler Heritage Days are currently in effect in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, British Columbia and some parts of Alberta, and CWS is proposing to implement Waterfowler Heritage Days throughout the province of Alberta in 2012.

Considering the establishment of a Mourning Dove hunting season

A notice of intent is given that an annual Mourning Dove hunting season in Ontario is under consideration. A 2011 evaluation by CWS – Ontario Region determined that Mourning Dove could be hunted sustainably in Ontario. A summary of the findings is provided below.

Mourning Doves are one of the most abundant, widely distributed and heavily harvested game birds in North America. Mourning Doves currently are hunted in 40 of 50 U.S. states, where in recent years about 17 million birds are harvested annually by nearly 1 million hunters. In Canada, British Columbia has had an annual Mourning Dove hunting season since 1960. Ontario also once had a province-wide Mourning Dove hunting season that occurred for one year in 1955, but it has not been reinstated since that time. Since 2004, CWS has received a number of requests to reinstate an annual fall Mourning Dove hunt in Ontario. In response, in 2011 CWS undertook an evaluation of the feasibility of opening a Mourning Dove hunting season in the province. Several large, long-term data sets and review of recent studies were used to evaluate Mourning Dove breeding (and winter) population status and trends, Mourning Dove harvest potential, various aspects of human dimensions, and to identify information gaps necessary for conservation and management. Major findings of the report were: 1) The Ontario breeding population, as indexed by the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), has increased substantially (~ three-fold) in both numbers and distribution since the mid-/late 1960s; 2) The First and Second Breeding Bird Atlases of Ontario have documented an increase in breeding evidence and a northward breeding range expansion between the mid-/late 1980s and mid-/late 2000s; 3) Winter dove population sizes, as indexed by Christmas Bird Count, have increased considerably since the late 1970s; 4) Despite a decline over the past 10 years, relative abundance of doves, as indexed by number of birds per BBS route, in their core breeding areas within the Carolinian and Lake Simcoe–Rideau regions of the province (Bird Conservation Region 13) are similar to those in northern U.S. states where doves are currently hunted; 5) Preliminary calculations suggest that the estimated breeding population of 1.2–1.3 million Mourning Doves are anticipated to produce a fall population (fall-flight) that could accommodate anticipated hunter harvest rates with minimal impact to the Ontario Mourning Dove population; 6) Band recovery data confirmed that Mourning Doves that breed in Ontario have been subjected to harvest in the eastern U.S. for decades; 7) Results from a relatively small public opinion survey conducted by a non-governmental organization showed that a majority of Ontario residents polled in 2006 would not be opposed (58% in favour, 25% neutral and 17% opposed) to establishment of a Mourning Dove hunting season if it was determined that the Ontario population could sustain harvest. Based on this and other supporting evidence presented in the report, CWS concludes that the Ontario Mourning Dove population could sustain harvest and establishing a hunting season is biologically justifiable at this time.

Manitoba

Reducing restrictions on the daily bag and possession limits for residents and non-residents of Canada for Canvasback and Redhead

It is proposed to remove the restrictions on the daily bag (currently 4) and possession limits (currently 12) for Canvasbacks and Redheads in Game Bird Hunting Zone (GBHZ) 4 for residents of Canada. This change would bring the daily bag and possession limits to the same as those for other ducks (daily bag limit of 8 and possession limit of 24).

It is also proposed to relax the restrictions on the daily bag (currently 2) and possession limits (currently 6) for Canvasbacks and Redheads in GBHZ 4 for non-residents of Canada. This change would increase the daily bag limit to 4 birds (possession limit of 12).

These changes are expected to result in only minor increases in harvest of Canvasbacks and Redheads, both of which are currently healthy and above North American Waterfowl Management Plan goals. The proposed amendments would provide increased hunting opportunity, and would be particularly beneficial to residents of Canada because it would remove the requirement to differentiate these species from other ducks, which many residents find challenging during their earlier-opening season.

Effects of the proposed change would be evaluated by continuing to monitor Canvasback and Redhead harvest in Manitoba.

Snow Goose

- *Extending the special conservation season – spring 2013*

It is proposed that the spring Snow Goose conservation season in Game Bird Hunting Zone 1 be extended to June 15. The season currently closes May 31, but in recent years, large numbers of Snow Geese have remained in coastal parts of this zone into June. This measure would provide additional opportunity to manage this overabundant

species, and contribute to reducing the growth of the population, through hunting, particularly in late spring.

- *Removing restrictions on decoy use with electronic Snow Goose recordings*

It is proposed to eliminate the current requirement to use only blue or white phase Snow Goose decoys when electronic Snow Goose recordings are being used. Decoy restrictions were implemented in Manitoba due to concern about the potential vulnerability of Canada Geese to electronic Snow Goose recordings; however, research has since shown that Canada Geese are less vulnerable to electronic recordings of Snow Geese than to traditional hunting methods (Caswell *et al.* 2003). Removal of this restriction would allow hunters to target both Canada and Snow Geese during the same hunt, which would provide additional opportunity to manage overabundant Snow Geese through hunting.

Establishing a hunting season for Woodcock

It is proposed that a hunting season for Woodcock be introduced in Game Bird Hunting Zones 3 and 4, running from September 8 to November 30, with a bag limit of 8 per day (24 in possession) for residents of Canada, and 4 per day (12 in possession) for non-residents of Canada.

Woodcock populations have been surveyed in Manitoba since 1992, and the average number of singing males per route has been consistently higher than the average of other states and provinces in the Central Management Unit (CMU). Manitoba is the only jurisdiction within the CMU without a hunting season (Cooper and Parker, 2011). Five other provinces with breeding populations of woodcock currently have hunting seasons: Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario.

Harvest in Manitoba is expected to be small relative to other jurisdictions. Hunter numbers and harvest can be monitored by the CWS National Harvest Survey, which estimates Canadian harvest of migratory game birds annually.

The proposed Woodcock season would provide a new and unique hunting opportunity in Manitoba, and has been the subject of repeated requests by both resident and non-resident hunters.

Saskatchewan

Removing restrictions on decoy use with electronic Snow Goose recordings

It is proposed to eliminate the current requirement to use only blue or white phase Snow Goose decoys when electronic Snow Goose recordings are being used. Decoy restrictions were implemented in Saskatchewan due to concern about the vulnerability of Canada Geese to electronic Snow Goose recordings; however, research has since shown that Canada Geese are less vulnerable to electronic recordings of Snow Geese than to traditional hunting methods (Caswell *et al.* 2003). Removal of this restriction would allow hunters to target both Canada and Snow Geese during the same hunt, which would provide additional opportunity to manage overabundant Snow Geese through hunting.

Changing the opening date for White-fronted Goose

It is proposed to change the opening date for White-fronted Goose hunting by Canadian residents in the South Game Bird Zone from September 10 to September 1. This would align all waterfowl hunting seasons for Canadian residents. As there is currently little hunting of other goose species during the closed period for White-fronted Geese, this amendment is expected to have minimal impact on harvest rates of White-fronted Geese.

Relaxing daily bag and possession limit restrictions for Northern Pintail

It is proposed to reduce restrictions on the harvest of Northern Pintail in Saskatchewan by increasing the daily bag limit from 3 to 4 and the possession limit from 9 to 12. The purpose of this amendment is to align daily bag and possession limit restrictions for Northern Pintails with Alberta. The increase in Saskatchewan harvest of Northern Pintails is expected to be small (5–10%) and not pose a conservation concern. Pintail population estimates have increased in recent years, particularly in the Canadian Prairies, and it is believed that this measure would not impact this population trend.

Alberta

Removing restrictions on decoy use with electronic Snow Goose recordings

It is proposed to eliminate the current requirement to use only blue or white phase Snow Goose decoys when electronic Snow Goose recordings are being used. Decoy restrictions were implemented in Alberta due to concern about the vulnerability of Canada Geese to electronic Snow Goose recordings; however, research has since shown that Canada Geese are less vulnerable to

electronic recordings of Snow Geese than to traditional hunting methods (Caswell *et al.* 2003). Removal of this restriction would allow hunters to target both Canada and Snow Geese during the same hunt, which would provide additional opportunity to manage overabundant Snow Geese through hunting.

Establishing Waterfowler Heritage Days province-wide

Alberta does not currently have a province-wide initiative promoting the heritage of waterfowl hunting directed at youth.

It is proposed to extend the Waterfowler Heritage Days (WHD) currently in effect in Game Bird Hunting Zones 5, 6 and 7 to all remaining Alberta Game Bird Hunting Zones (i.e. zones 1–4 and 8). This amendment would allow WHD to occur on the first Saturday and Sunday of September for the entire province. This change would provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. Waterfowler Heritage Days are currently in effect in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia, and CWS is considering implementing WHD in Ontario as well in 2012.

Opening Date Change

It is proposed to change the migratory bird hunting dates of Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 841 within Game Bird Hunting Zone 1 from September 15 through December 16 to September 1 through December 16. This would align migratory bird hunting season dates within provincial parks, and align migratory bird hunting season dates in WMU 841 with all surrounding WMUs.

British Columbia

Increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag limit for migratory game birds

Following regulatory changes that have taken place in Western Canada and in the United States over the last few years, **it is proposed** to increase the possession limit from two times the daily bag limit to three times the daily bag limit for all species of migratory game birds.

This change is intended to increase opportunities for hunters who might otherwise be forced to stop hunting, or to gift their birds in order to continue hunting. This change is expected to have little effect on harvests of waterfowl.

Similar measures were put in place in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario in 2010, and in Quebec in 2011.

Snow Goose and Ross's Goose

It is proposed to open Snow Goose and Ross's Goose Hunting in all Provincial Region 2 Management Units located in the lower mainland of British Columbia. Historically, Wrangel Island Snow Geese and Ross's Geese only wintered in Provincial Management Unit 2-4 and 2-5, but their fall and wintering range has expanded in recent years. The proposal supports the management goals of controlling the exponential Snow Goose population growth observed in recent years, addressing safety concerns at the Vancouver International Airport, alleviating crop damage and soil compaction in the Fraser River delta and reducing the ecological degradation of the Fraser River delta marshes caused by white goose foraging, while keeping a basic season on Ross's Goose, which are not targeted by ongoing management programs. Daily Snow Goose bag limit would remain at 10 for Provincial Management Unit 2-4 and 2-5 and at 5 for all other Provincial Management Units and for Ross's Goose.

White-fronted Goose

It is proposed to re-open the White-fronted Goose season in all Provincial Region 1 (Vancouver Island) and Region 2 (Lower mainland) Management Units. The hunting prohibition on White-fronted Geese in these two regions was implemented at a time when the species population was relatively rare and below management objectives. Currently, Provincial Regions 1 and 2 are the only regions of British Columbia without a White-fronted Goose season. The re-opening would target the Pacific Flyway population of White-fronted Goose, which now stands at twice the management goal, and not the much rarer Tule White-fronted Goose, which is not believed to occur regularly or in significant numbers in Provincial Regions 1 and 2. Daily bag limit would be set at five, the same level as in the rest of the province. The current White-fronted Goose harvest in British Columbia is estimated at less than 200 birds per year (2000–2010 CWS National Harvest Survey data), and the proposed regulatory change is expected to have a minimal effect on overall harvest.

Canada Goose

In order to assist with the management of temperate Canada Geese, **it is proposed** that the Canada Goose bag limit be increased from 5 birds daily to 10 birds daily for all of British Columbia. This initiative supports the management objectives of increasing sports harvest to control the increasing population of Canada Geese, providing assistance to jurisdictions with nuisance birds and assisting with crop depredation problems.

It is proposed that season dates in Provincial Management Unit 2-11 be standardized with season dates in the remainder of Region 2. Historically, season dates in Provincial Management Unit 2 were coordinated with those of Provincial Region 3. The intent of this change is to simplify federal and provincial regulatory tables,

It is proposed that Canada Goose split seasons be standardized in all of Provincial Region 2 except Provincial Management Unit 2-11, which parallels the seasons in Provincial Region 3. The main objective of the proposal is to alleviate Canada Goose conflicts within Region 2. The proposed change would simplify Region 2 Canada Goose regulations where, in previous years, three different seasons were offered across Provincial Management Units.

It is proposed that Canada Goose split seasons be standardized in all of Region 3 to alleviate Canada Goose conflicts within Region 3. The proposed change would simplify Region 3 Canada Goose regulations where, in previous years, two different seasons were offered across Provincial Management Units.

Yukon Territory

No regulatory changes are proposed for the 2012–2013 season.

Northwest Territories

No regulatory changes are proposed for the 2012–2013 season.

Nunavut

Extending the special conservation season for Snow Geese – spring 2013

It is proposed to extend the current spring special conservation season for overabundant Snow Geese in Nunavut. The current regulations allow Snow Geese to be taken in spring from May 1 to June 7. The proposed change would allow Snow Geese to be taken from May 1 to June 30, beginning in spring 2013.

This change would allow more hunting opportunities for non-Aboriginal people and aligns with international management strategies to decrease current population levels of Snow Geese. It would also make the dates consistent with the special conservation season in northern Quebec.

Updates to the *Migratory Birds Regulations*

Government of Canada Allowing the Temporary Possession of Dead Migratory Birds

The Government of Canada wants to inform the public of a variance to paragraph 6(*b*) of the *Migratory Birds Regulations*, to allow for the temporary possession of found dead migratory birds, which is in effect until September 2012.

As public participation in the study of dead migratory birds is necessary to help conduct surveys on avian viruses, it is permitted to temporarily possess dead migratory birds to allow for swift delivery of such birds to provincial or territorial authorities for analysis. The Government of Canada is responsible, under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, to ensure that migratory birds are protected and conserved, and testing dead birds is believed to be the most effective method available for the detection of avian viruses.

What you need to do if you find a dead migratory bird:

Contact the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre by visiting their website at www.ccwhc.ca/contact_us.php or by telephoning 1-800-567-2033.

Visit the Public Health Agency of Canada website at www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/fs-hwb-fr-mos-eng.php for guidance on precautions to take when handling wild birds.

For more information on the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, visit www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe/default.asp?lang=en&n=3DF2F089-1.

Revising the North American Waterfowl Management Plan

(by the NAWMP Revision Steering Committee)

Goals: The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP, or the Plan) is being revised in recognition of the rapidly changing landscape even at the celebration of its 25th anniversary. The proposed purpose of the revised Plan is "to sustain North America's waterfowl populations and their habitats at levels that satisfy human desires and perpetuate waterfowl hunting. Plan goals will be accomplished through partnerships guided by sound science".

Rationale: In many ways, waterfowl offer more complex management challenges than many other natural resources. The large number of species, each with its own dynamics, presents a myriad of challenges magnified by the migratory nature of waterfowl. International coordination of conservation efforts is essential. Waterfowl managers have eagerly accepted these challenges for more than a half-century, and each generation has produced visionaries who provided valuable contributions for continuing progress.

The history of waterfowl management in North America includes many notable mileposts. Among these are the Migratory Bird Conventions – international treaties between the U.S. and Canada (1916) and between the U.S. and Mexico (1936); creation of the U.S. "Duck Stamp" and Canada's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp; establishment of the flyway council system; the tri-national North American Waterfowl Management Plan; and creation of the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund. The waterfowl management community has reached another milepost.

For the most part, managers have approached waterfowl conservation in an increasingly specialized manner, which has led in many instances to fragmented consideration for harvest, habitat and hunters. Scientific advancements in each of these arenas during the past decade have illustrated the relationships among these segments. More explicit linkages among habitat, harvest and human dimension goals can lead to more effective management of waterfowl and wetland resources in the future.

In August 2008, waterfowl policy makers and technicians convened in Minneapolis at the Future of Waterfowl Management Workshop to discuss the benefits of integrating harvest, habitat and hunter management into a more coherent system that better utilizes limited resources to benefit waterfowl and the people who enjoy them. It was agreed that the Plan revision was the appropriate venue for developing more coherent goals for waterfowl harvest and habitat management.

Call to action: Wetlands and other habitats necessary to sustain waterfowl populations continue to be lost. In some important areas of the U.S., losses have exceeded 90%, while in many settled areas of Canada wetland losses have approached 70%. In both countries, waterfowl hunter numbers have declined, threatening a loss of hunting traditions and the very foundation of North American wildlife conservation. Hunters have been an important source of funds for waterfowl conservation, and they have been primary advocates for waterfowl and wetland-friendly public policies. Clearly, the loss of wetlands and other habitats, the status of waterfowl populations, and levels of hunter participation are inextricably linked. To overcome these challenges of the future we need: 1) coherent objectives for waterfowl populations, habitat conservation and stakeholder engagement that are complementary and mutually reinforcing; 2) population goals that are attainable but adequate to satisfy hunters and other stakeholders, and sufficiently challenging to engage supporters in habitat conservation; 3) habitat goals that are adequate to achieve the demographic effects, population sizes and stakeholder experiences we desire; and 4) stakeholder participation and satisfaction sufficient to sustain habitats, populations and the conservation enterprise at mutually desired levels. Looking ahead, policy decisions regarding water, energy, agriculture and climate change will impact landscapes vital to waterfowl across North America. The waterfowl management community must play a leadership role in shaping these policies. To do so requires a united front: common goals, coordinated actions and clarity of focus.

Process: This revision is challenging from many perspectives: technical capacities must be expanded, diverse management philosophies must be accommodated and institutions that have served to advance waterfowl management may need modifications. A comprehensive consultative process has been essential. In recognition of this, the process began in fall 2009 with a number of consultation workshops conducted between December 2009 and February 2011. A large number of participants were invited to events in Canada, Mexico and the United States, and included state and provincial wildlife agencies, flyway councils, joint ventures, federal agencies, waterfowl hunters, and other interested parties. The consultations were used primarily to seek consensus on the fundamental objectives of waterfowl management in North America. The results from these workshops, as well as a report of the entire Round 1 and 2 consultation process, are available at www.nawmprevision.org/updates, which also includes the first draft of the revised Plan. The consultation period on that draft is now closed, and based on those results, the writing team is preparing a second draft to be completed by late winter 2012. News about future consultation will be posted at the website indicated above.

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Appendices

Appendix A. Special Conservation Measures for Fall 2011 and Spring 2012

MEASURES IN QUEBEC CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Item	Column 1 Area	Column 2 Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Column 3 Additional hunting method or equipment
1.	District A	May 1 to June 30 and September 1 to December 10	Recorded bird calls(*d*),(*f*)
2.	District B	September 17 to December 31	Recorded bird calls(*d*),(*f*)
3.	Districts C and D	March 1 to May 31(*a*), September 1 to September 16(*a*), and September 17 to December 31	Recorded bird calls(*d*),(*f*)
4.	District E	March 1 to May 31(*a*), September 1 to September 16(*a*), and September 17 to December 31	Recorded bird calls(*d*),(*f*); bait or bait crop area(*e*)
5.	Districts F	March 1 to May 31(*a*),(*b*),(*c*), September 6 to September 23(*a*), and September 24 to January 7	Recorded bird calls(*d*),(*f*); bait or bait crop area(*e*)
6.	District G	September 24 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(*d*),(*f*)

(*a*) Hunting and hunting equipment are allowed only on farmland.

(*b*) In District F, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the road right-of-way of Route 132 between the western limit of Montmagny municipality and the eastern limit of Cap-Saint-Ignace municipality.

(*c*) In District F, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt north of the St. Lawrence River and south of a line located at 1000 m north of Highway 40 between Montée St-Laurent and the Maskinongé River. On the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the railroad right-of-way located near Route 132 between the Nicolet River in the east and Lacerte Road in the west.

(*d*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.

(*e*) Hunting with bait or in a bait crop area is permitted if the Regional Director has given consent in writing pursuant to section 23.3.

(*f*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used, but if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

MEASURES IN ONTARIO CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Item	Column 1 Area	Column 2 Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Column 3 Additional hunting method or equipment
1.	Wildlife Management Unit 65	March 1 to May 31(*a*)	Recorded bird calls(*b*),(*c*)

(*a*) Hunting and hunting equipment are allowed only on farmland.

(*b*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.

(*c*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

MEASURES IN MANITOBA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Item	Column 1 Area	Column 2 Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Column 3 Additional hunting method or equipment
1.	Zone 1	April 1 to May 31 and August 15 to August 31	Recorded bird calls(*a*),(*b*)
2.	Zone 2	April 1 to May 31	Recorded bird calls(*a*),(*b*)
3.	Zone 3	April 1 to May 31	Recorded bird calls(*a*),(*b*)
4.	Zone 4	April 1 to May 31	Recorded bird calls(*a*),(*b*)

(*a*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.

(*b*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

MEASURES IN SASKATCHEWAN CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Item	Column 1 Area	Column 2 Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Column 3 Additional hunting method or equipment
1.	East of 106° W Longitude	April 1 to May 31	Recorded bird calls(*a*),(*b*)
2.	West of 106° W Longitude	April 1 to April 30	Recorded bird calls(*a*),(*b*)

(*a*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.

(*b*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

MEASURES IN NUNAVUT CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Item	Column 1 Area	Column 2 Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Column 3 Additional hunting method or equipment
1.	Throughout Nunavut	May 1 to June 7	Recorded bird calls(*a*),(*b*)
2.	Throughout Nunavut	August 15 to August 31	Recorded bird calls(*a*),(*b*)

(*a*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.

(*b*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

Appendix B. Objectives and Guidelines for the Establishment of National Regulations for Migratory Game Bird Hunting

(Revised June 1999 and updated December 2001 by the Canadian Wildlife Service Executive Committee)

A. Description of Regulations

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* are part of the regulations respecting the protection of migratory birds in general, as mandated by the *Migratory Birds Convention*. According to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, the Governor in Council may make regulations providing for:

1. The periods during which, or the geographic areas in which, migratory birds may be killed.
2. The species and number of migratory game birds that a person may kill in any period when doing so is permitted by the regulation.
3. The manner in which migratory game birds may be killed and the equipment that may be used.
4. The periods in each year during which a person may have in possession migratory game birds killed during the season when the taking of such birds was legal, and the number of birds that may be possessed.

This document deals with these four aspects of regulation, although the *Migratory Birds Regulations* deal with other areas as well.

B. Guiding Principles

Guiding principles for migratory bird hunting regulations include those laid out in the Guidelines for Wildlife Policy in Canada as approved by the Wildlife Ministers at the Wildlife Ministers Conference, 30 September 1982. In particular, the most relevant principles are:

1. The maintenance of viable natural wildlife stocks always takes precedence over their use.
2. Canadians are temporary custodians, not the owners, of their wildlife heritage.
3. Canadians are free to enjoy and use wildlife in Canada, subject to laws aimed at securing its sustainable enjoyment and use.
4. The cost of management essential to preserving viable populations of wildlife should be borne by all Canadians; special management measures required to permit intensive uses should be supported by the users.
5. Wildlife has intrinsic, social and economic values, but wildlife sometimes causes problems that require management.
6. Conservation of wildlife relies upon a well-informed public.

C. Objectives of the Migratory Game Birds Hunting Regulations

1. To provide an opportunity for Canadians to hunt migratory game birds, by establishing hunting seasons. Guidelines for hunting regulations are described in Section D. Briefly, regulations should be based on a number of features specific to the geographic area under consideration. Factors such as the timing of arrival and departure of migrating birds, the status of local breeding populations, fledging of local broods and completion of the moult of successfully breeding females, and other special issues such as the status of species, should be used to determine the most effective hunting regulations. Sometimes regulations may need to be based on the species of highest conservation concern.
2. To manage the take of migratory game birds at levels compatible with the species' ability to sustain healthy populations consistent with the available habitat throughout their range.
3. To conserve the genetic diversity within migratory game bird populations.

4. To provide hunting opportunity in various parts of Canada within the limits imposed by the abundance, migration and distribution patterns of migratory bird populations, and with due respect for the traditional use of the migratory game bird resource in Canada.

5. To limit the accidental killing of a migratory game bird species requiring protection because of poor population status, where there is a reasonable possibility that a hunter might confuse that species with another for which there is an open season.

6. To assist, at times and in specific locations, in the prevention of damage to natural habitat or depredation of agricultural crops by migratory game birds.

D. Guidelines for the Regulations on Migratory Game Bird Hunting

1. Regulations shall be established according to the requirements of the *Migratory Birds Convention* and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*.

2. Regulations shall address the principles of Section B and the objectives of Section C.

3. Unless needs dictate otherwise, hunting regulations will be changed as little as possible from year to year.

4. Regulations should be simple and readily enforceable.

5. Where a conflict arises between allocation of harvest among jurisdictions and the conservation of migratory game bird populations, the conservation objective shall take precedence.

6. When uncertainty exists about the status of a migratory game bird population, a precautionary approach will be taken in establishing sustainable hunting regulations.

7. Hunting regulations may not discriminate among Canadian hunters based on their province or territory of residence. This guideline does not preclude recognition of Aboriginal rights.

8. Regulations should be consistent in jurisdictions where important concentration areas for staging waterfowl straddle borders.

9. Where possible, regional, national and international harvest strategies will be developed among management agencies that share populations. Regulations will be designed to meet mutual targets for harvest, harvest rate or population size.

10. Specific regulation changes will be developed through a process of co-management and public consultation with other interested groups and individuals.

11. Hunting regulations should be consistent with terms of agreements in Aboriginal land claim settlements.

E. Regulatory Process

Regulations may be established each year in one of two ways: selection of a regulatory package from a pre-established set of possible packages, or through an annual regulatory consultation process.

Pre-established sets of regulatory alternatives:
Regulatory alternatives may be pre-established according to the guidelines outlined in section D, with the selection made in any year based on a predetermined set of conditions. For example, a set of three regulatory packages with decreasing harvest rates could be described: liberal, moderate and restrictive. The criteria for annual selection among the alternatives could be based on the results of population surveys. This method would reduce the time required to conduct the usual annual process, simplify the implementation of multi-jurisdictional harvest strategies, and increase the predictability of regulations.

Annual regulatory process:
The Minister of the Environment must be in a position to proceed with any changes to the *Migratory Birds Regulations* for the upcoming hunting season by early June. To ensure that the regulations are made with the best possible advice, a broad process of consultation must be carried out. Reports produced as part of this process may be obtained from Regional Directors, Canadian Wildlife Service, or the Director of Population and Conservation Management Division at the national office of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

1. The Canadian Wildlife Service, national office, issues a status report on migratory game bird

populations at the beginning of December. This report describes the biological information available to determine the status of each population.

2. Regional officials (biologists and management) of the Canadian Wildlife Service and provincial and territorial wildlife officials will consult with non-governmental organizations and interested individuals on issues related to hunting regulations for the coming season. To ensure that all parties have access to the best possible biological information, the *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada* report may be used as an aid.

3. The initial suggestions for regulation changes will be developed through regional consultation processes. These processes may vary among regions, but should include active participation by provincial and territorial wildlife agencies, wildlife co-management boards and affected stakeholders. The changes, with rationale and predicted effect (Section F) are described in a regulation report issued at the beginning of January from the national office entitled *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations*. This report allows inter-regional and international consideration of proposed changes.

4. Public and organizational comments on the proposals outlined in the *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations* report should be sent to the appropriate Regional Director, or the Director of Population and Conservation Management Division at the national office of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

5. Final regulation proposals, incorporating input from the consultations, are submitted from the Regional Directors to the Director of Wildlife Program Support Division at the national office of the Canadian Wildlife Service, by the end of February.

6. The regulation proposals are moved, by the national office, through the regulatory process for consideration by the government beginning in June.

7. Population surveys are carried out throughout the year. From time to time these surveys may show an unexpected change in migratory game bird populations that require a sudden revision to the national regulation proposals.

8. The final regulations, as approved by the Governor-in-Council, are described in a report, entitled *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations in Canada*, which is distributed to all involved parties in August. Each purchaser of a migratory game bird hunting permit receives a summary of the regulations for that province.

F. Items to Be Addressed in Regulatory Proposals

Proposals to change migratory game bird hunting regulations should address the following questions:

1. What is the goal of the regulatory change?
2. How does the change address the objectives and guidelines set out in this document?
3. What is the predicted effect of the proposal? An analysis based on existing data sources should be included.
4. How will the actual effect of the regulatory change be measured?

The proposals should be as concise as possible, while still including the required elements. A simplified rationale would apply for regulations that carry out previously negotiated harvest strategies and agreements.

Appendix C. Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations Summaries by Province and Territory – Fall 2011 and Spring 2012.

See the following pages for the summaries. The summaries are also available on the CWS national website: www.ec.gc.ca/rcom-mbhr/default.asp?lang=En&n=8fac341c-1

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2011–2012

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

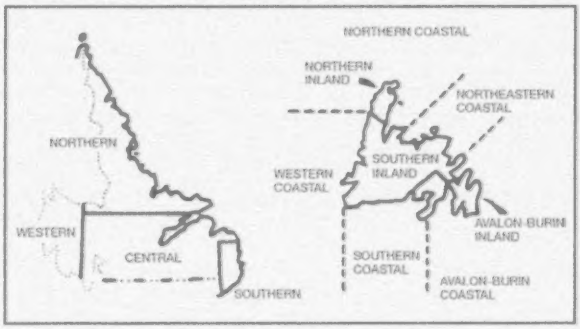
Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and *Migratory Birds Regulations*, please consult the hunting pages of Environment Canada's website (www.ec.gc.ca/nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=2D16D723-1), or you may contact:

Environment Canada
Wildlife Enforcement Division
6 Bruce Street
Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador A1N 4T3
Tel.: 709-772-5585
Fax: 709-772-5097

Migratory bird hunters hunting within Nunatsiavut should contact the Nunatsiavut Government (709-896-8582) for additional information on access to Labrador Inuit Lands and additional hunting regulations. A map of the Labrador Inuit Land Claim can be found at: www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa

Waterfowl and Snipe Hunting Zones



"Coastal" refers to that portion of the coast lying within 100 metres of the mean ordinary high-water mark, including the coastal portions of offshore islands and the adjacent marine coastal waters.

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

Migratory bird hunters: Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, murres (turrs) and Mourning Doves.

The bag and possession restrictions for Barrow's Goldeneye implemented in 2007 remain in place.

Murre (turr) hunters: All hunters must purchase and be in possession of a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and a Habitat Conservation Stamp while hunting murres. This hunt is only open to **residents** of Newfoundland and Labrador. Murres are the only migratory bird that can be legally hunted from a power boat. Any occupant of a boat who shoots or retrieves murres, or anyone who operates a boat to pursue murres, is hunting as defined in the *Migratory Birds Regulations* and is **required** to hold a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit.

We would also like to note that there have been **changes** to the **National Harvest Survey**, and **murres are now included in the survey**. Every year a sample of hunters are asked to participate in the Wing and Tail Survey, and in 2011–2012 we are asking survey participants that hunt murres to include their murre wings in the Wing and Tail Survey. If you have been selected for the survey, you will receive a kit with wing envelopes; please follow the instructions for murres. This information will be used to determine the species and age of birds taken in the hunt.

Sunday hunting: The *Migratory Birds Regulations* allow hunting for migratory birds (ducks, geese, snipe and murres) on Sundays; however, Sunday hunting has been prohibited by the province. In 2006, the province brought in new regulations that allow Sunday hunting during specific periods of the year. Please contact the Provincial Wildlife Division for further information on Sunday hunting.

Waterfowler Heritage Days: Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

For information on the safety and licensing requirements for young hunters please contact the Provincial Wildlife Division at 709-637-2025, or for questions on the *Firearms Act*, contact the Canadian Firearms Program at 1-800-731-4000.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

REGULATION OF MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING

The Canadian hunting regulations for migratory game birds are reviewed annually by Environment Canada, with input from the provinces and territories, and a range of other interested stakeholders. As part of this process, the Canadian Wildlife Service produces three reports each year. Information on the status of migratory game birds in Canada or proposals to amend the Canadian *Migratory Birds Regulations* can be found at: www.ec.gc.ca/nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=2D16D723-1

CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Service office, your local RCMP detachment, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

OPEN SEASONS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND **(No open season for Harlequin Ducks**)**

Area	Ducks, including mergansers (other than Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders and scoters), geese and snipe	Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders and scoters
All coastal zones	Third Saturday in September to last Saturday in December 2011; Waterfowler Heritage Day: Second Saturday in September 2011	Fourth Saturday of November 2011 to last day of February 2012
All inland zones	Third Saturday in September to last Saturday in December 2011; Waterfowler Heritage Day: Second Saturday in September 2011	No open season

* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.
** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders and scoters)	Mergansers	Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders and scoters	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6(*a*)	6	6	5	10
Possession	12(*b*)	12	12	10	20

(*a*) Not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks, and not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*b*) Not more than 8 may be American Black Ducks, and not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.
** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.

OPEN SEASONS IN LABRADOR **(No open season for Harlequin Ducks**)**

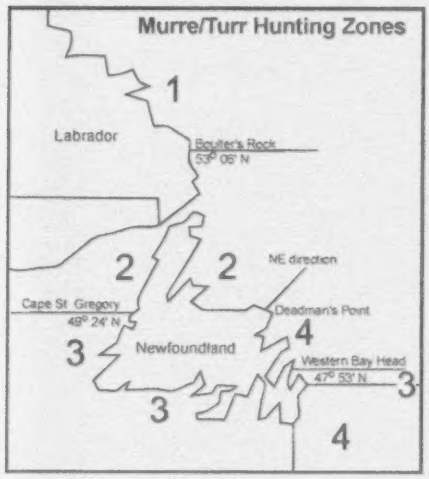
Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks** and eiders), geese and snipe	Eiders
Northern Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December 2011	Last Saturday in September 2011 to second Saturday in January 2012
Western Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December 2011	No open season
Southern Labrador Zone	Second Saturday in September to third Saturday in December 2011; Waterfowler Heritage Day: First Saturday in September 2011	Fourth Saturday in November 2011 to last day of February 2012
Central Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December 2011	Last Saturday in October to last Saturday in November 2011, and first Saturday in January to last day of February 2012

** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN LABRADOR

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders and scoters)	Mergansers, scoters and eiders	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6(*a*)	6	5	10
Possession	12(*b*)	12	10	20

(*a*) Not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*b*) Not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.



OPEN SEASONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

Area	Murres
Zone No. 1	September 1 to December 16, 2011
Zone No. 2	October 6, 2011, to January 20, 2012
Zone No. 3	November 25, 2011, to March 10, 2012
Zone No. 4	November 3, 2011, to January 10, 2012, and February 2 to March 10, 2012

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

Limits	Murres
Daily bags	20
Possession	40

Canada

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CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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Environment Canada | Environnement Canada

Prince Edward Island

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2011–2012

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Environment Canada
Wildlife Enforcement Division
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6
Tel.: 506-364-5044
Fax: 506-364-5062

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds (such as minimum required distances from residences and businesses), please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

For conservation purposes, the maximum daily bag of one Barrow's Goldeneye and maximum possession limit of two Barrow's Goldeneye was instituted in Prince Edward Island in 2007. The maximum daily bag limit of one bird would not make unintentional shooting illegal; however, it would ensure that legitimate hunters who did shoot one Barrow's Goldeneye would cease hunting for the day, or be aware that they would contravene regulations if they continued hunting and shot additional Barrow's Goldeneye. These regulations have been put in place to provide additional protection to this population, currently listed as a species of special concern in Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with Prince Edward Island Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (**No open season for Harlequin Ducks**)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, eiders and scoters), snipe and geese	Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, eiders and scoters	Woodcock
Throughout the Province of Prince Edward Island	Sept. 17, 2011 (Waterfowler Heritage Day)	Oct. 3 to Dec. 10, 2011	Oct. 3 to Dec. 31, 2011	Sept. 26 to Dec. 10, 2011

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, eiders and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, eiders and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(*a*)	6(*c*)	5	8	10
Possession	12(*b*)	12(*d*)	10	16	20

(*a*) Not more than 4 may be Mallard–American Black Duck hybrids or American Black Ducks, and not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*b*) Not more than 8 may be Mallard–American Black Duck hybrids or American Black Ducks, and not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*c*) Not more than 4 may be scoters.
(*d*) Not more than 8 may be scoters.

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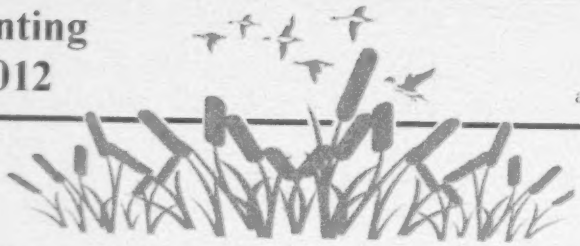
Environment Canada Environnement Canada

Nova Scotia

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2011–2012



Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Environment Canada
Wildlife Enforcement Division
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6
Tel.: 506-364-5044
Fax: 506-364-5062

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is prohibited. Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as Sunday closures and minimum required distances from residences and businesses.

For conservation purposes, the maximum daily bag of one Barrow's Goldeneye and maximum possession limit of two Barrow's Goldeneye was instituted in Nova Scotia in 2007. The maximum daily bag limit of one bird would not make unintentional shooting illegal; however, it would ensure that legitimate hunters who did shoot one Barrow's Goldeneye would cease hunting for the day, or be aware that they would contravene regulations if they continued hunting and shot additional Barrow's Goldeneye. These regulations have been put in place to provide additional protection to this population, currently listed as a species of special concern in Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

In National Wildlife Areas located in Nova Scotia, the following regulations apply. Refer to notices posted at entrances for area-specific rules.

- Vehicles, ATVs and snowmobiles are prohibited unless otherwise posted.
- Vegetation may not be cut or damaged. Fires are not permitted. Camping is not permitted.
- The construction and use of tree stands is prohibited.
- Domestic animals may not be allowed to run at large.
- Outboard motors greater than 9.9 horsepower are not permitted.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Service office, your local RCMP detachment, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-565-2224, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

OPEN SEASONS IN NOVA SCOTIA (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Additional seasons for Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, eiders, scoters, Goldeneye and Buffleheads	Geese	Woodcock and snipe
Zone No. 1*	Sept. 17, 2011	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2011	No additional season	Sept. 6 to Sept. 16, 2011(*a*), and Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2011	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30, 2011
Zone No. 2*	Sept. 17, 2011	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31, 2011	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7, 2011, and Jan. 1 to Jan. 7, 2012	Sept. 9 to Sept. 14, 2011(*a*), and Oct. 8, 2011, to Jan. 15, 2012	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30, 2011
Zone No. 3*	Sept. 17, 2011	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31, 2011	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7, 2012	Sept. 9 to Sept. 14, 2011(*a*), and Oct. 8, 2011, to Jan. 15, 2012	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30, 2011

(*a*) In Zone No. 1, Zone No. 2 and Zone No. 3, hunting for geese during the September 2011 season (excluding Waterfowler Heritage Day) is allowed only on farmland. "Farmland," as defined in the *Migratory Birds Regulations*, means land that is being used for crop production or animal husbandry.

* "Zone No. 1" means the counties of Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Kings and Annapolis.
"Zone No. 2" means the counties of Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, Lunenburg, Halifax, Guysborough, Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness and Richmond, except the area described under Zone 3.
"Zone No. 3" means Bras d'Or Lake and all waters draining into Bras d'Or Lake including waters on the lake side of the highway bridge on Great Bras d'Or at Seal Islands (Highway No. 105), at St. Peters on St. Peters Inlet (Highway No. 4) and at Bras d'Or on St. Andrews Channel (Highway No. 105).

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, eiders and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, eiders and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(*a*)	5(*c*)	5(*e*)(*f*)	8	10
Possession	12(*b*)	10(*d*)	10(*e*)(*f*)	16	20

(*a*) Not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks, and not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*b*) Not more than 8 may be American Black Ducks, and not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*c*) Not more than 4 may be scoters.
(*d*) Not more than 8 may be scoters.
(*e*) In Zone 1, not more than a total of 3 additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily and not more than a total of 6 additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be possessed from September 6 to September 16, 2011, inclusive.
(*f*) In Zone 2 and Zone 3, not more than a total of 3 additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily and not more than a total of 6 additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be possessed from September 9 to September 14, 2011, inclusive.

Canada

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CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2011–2012

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Environment Canada
Wildlife Enforcement Division
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6
Tel.: 506-364-5044
Fax: 506-364-5062

Hunting Zones

Zone No. 1
Saint John County south of No. 1 Highway and west of Saint John Harbour, that part of Charlotte County lying south of No. 1 Highway, and the Grand Manan Islands and Campobello Island, except the following area, which is closed to hunting: the area in the Bay of Fundy known as The Wolves, including the surrounding waters.

Zone No. 2
The remainder of the Province of New Brunswick, except the following, which are closed to hunting: the estuary of the Tabusintac River, Bathurst Basin and most of Bathurst Harbour (two islands remain open and signs have been posted to indicate their locations), and the Dalhousie shoreline from the eastern tip of Dalhousie Island to the mouth of the Miller Brook and extending one kilometre offshore.

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as Sunday closures, minimum required distances from residences and businesses, the 1:00 p.m. closure for Tabusintac and Tracadie lagoons, and the requirement to use a dog while hunting woodcock during September.

For conservation purposes, the maximum daily bag of one Barrow's Goldeneye and maximum possession limit of two Barrow's Goldeneye was instituted in New Brunswick in 2007. The maximum daily bag limit of one bird would not make unintentional shooting illegal; however, it would ensure that legitimate hunters who did shoot one Barrow's Goldeneye would cease hunting for the day, or be aware that they would contravene regulations if they continued hunting and shot additional Barrow's Goldeneye. These regulations have been put in place to provide additional protection to this population, currently listed as a species of special concern in Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

"Farmland," as defined in the *Migratory Birds Regulations*, means land that is being used for crop production or animal husbandry (*terre agricole*).

In National Wildlife Areas located in New Brunswick, the following regulations apply. Refer to notices posted at entrances for area-specific rules.

- Vehicles, ATVs and snowmobiles are prohibited unless otherwise posted.
- Vegetation may not be cut or damaged. Fires are not permitted. Camping is not permitted.
- The construction and use of tree stands is prohibited.
- Domestic animals may not be allowed to run at large.
- Outboard motors greater than 9.9 horsepower are not permitted.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with New Brunswick Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK **(No open season for Harlequin Ducks)**

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese (other than Canada Geese and Cackling Geese) and snipe	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Additional season for Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, eiders and scoters in coastal waters only	Woodcock
Zone No. 1	Sept. 17, 2011	Oct. 15, 2011, to Jan. 4, 2012	Sept. 6 to Sept. 16, 2011(*a*), and Oct. 15, 2011, to Jan. 4, 2012	Feb. 1 to Feb. 24, 2012	Sept. 15 to Nov. 30, 2011
Zone No. 2	Sept. 17, 2011	Oct. 1 to Dec. 18, 2011	Sept. 6 to Sept. 16, 2011(*a*), and Oct. 1 to Dec. 18, 2011	No additional season	Sept. 15 to Nov. 30, 2011

(*a*) In Zone No. 1 and Zone No. 2, hunting for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese during the period of September 6 to September 16, 2011, is allowed only on farmland.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, eiders and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, eiders and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(*a*)	6(*c*)	5(*e*)	8	10
Possession	12(*b*)	12(*d*)	10(*e*)	16	20

(*a*) Not more than 3 may be American Black Ducks, and not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*b*) Not more than 6 may be American Black Ducks, and not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*c*) Not more than 4 may be scoters, and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 24, 2012, not more than 4 eiders may be taken daily.
(*d*) Not more than 8 may be scoters, and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 24, 2012, not more than 8 eiders may be possessed.
(*e*) Not more than a total of 3 additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily and not more than a total of 6 additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be possessed from September 6 to September 16, 2011, inclusive.

Canada

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CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2011–2012

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.*

*In Quebec, these signs also identify no-hunting zones.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the legislation. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the retrieval of birds, description of hunting districts and non-hunting areas, contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service
1141 Route de l'Église
P.O. Box 10100
Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1V 4H5
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767
Fax: 418-649-6475

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2011–2012 federal permits.

Non-residents of Canada hunting woodcock have a lower daily bag limit than Canadian hunters.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birzds before cooking them.

NOTE
In district F, please note that Route 155 and Highway 55 are the boundary line for the different daily bag and possession limits for Black Ducks.

The opening hunting date for ducks is September 17, 2011, for districts B, C, D and E; September 24, 2011, for districts F and G. The possession limit for ducks (excluding American Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal and Barrow's Goldeneye), coots. moorhens, snipe and woodcock are three times the daily limit. Hunters may obtain useful information on the Barrow's Goldeneye, especially on ways to tell this species apart from the Common Goldeneye, at the following website: www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/default.asp?lang=En

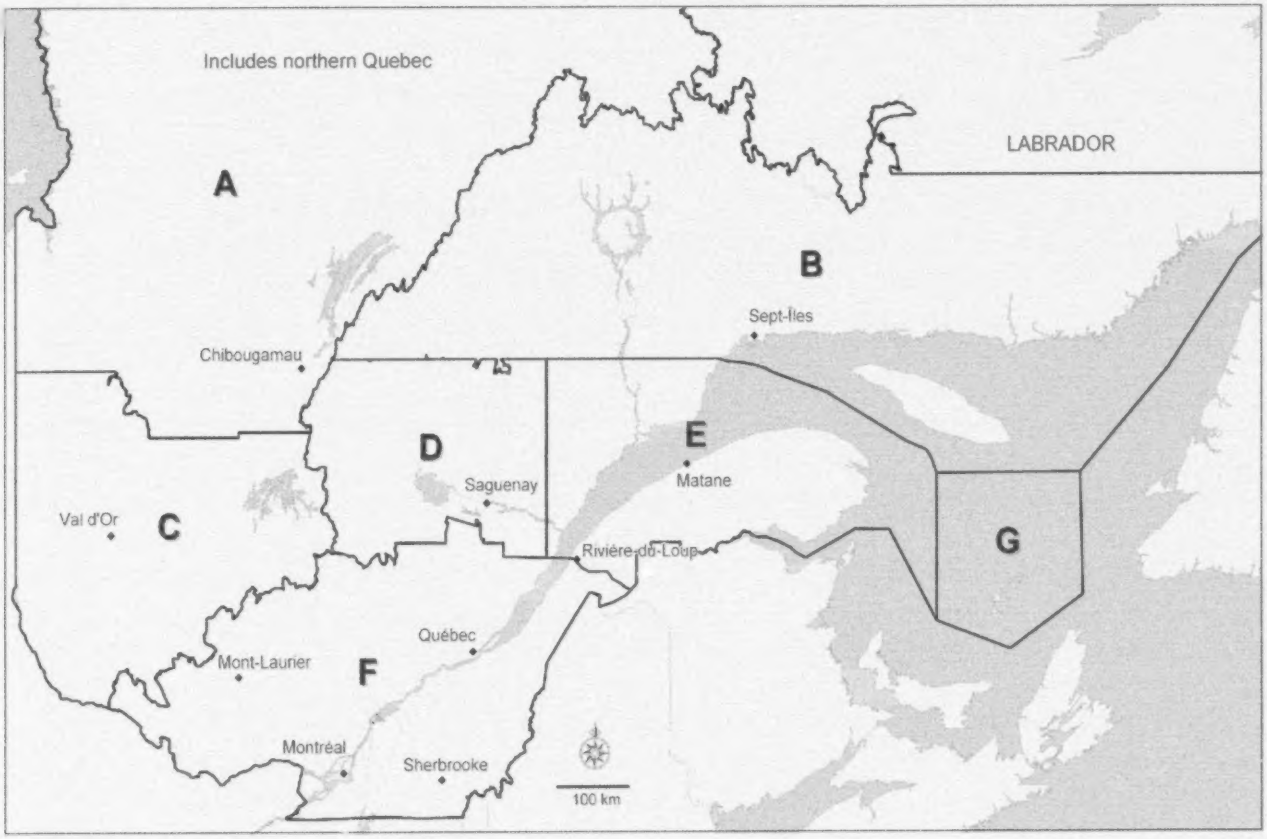
HELPFUL TIP
Canadians can be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

OPEN SEASONS IN QUEBEC (**No open season for Harlequin Ducks or rails**)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese, woodcock and snipe WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks (other than eiders, Harlequin Ducks and Long-tailed Ducks*), geese (other than Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and Snow Geese) and snipe	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks	Coots and moorhens	Woodcock
A	N/A	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10, 2011	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10, 2011	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10, 2011	No open season	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10, 2011
B	Sept. 10, 2011	Sept. 17 to Dec. 28, 2011	Sept. 17 to Dec. 31, 2011	Oct. 1, 2011, to Jan. 14, 2012(*b*)	No open season	Sept. 10 to Dec. 24, 2011
C, D and E	Sept. 10, 2011	Sept. 17 to Dec. 28, 2011(*c*)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 16, 2011(*a*) Sept. 17 to Dec. 16, 2011	Sept. 17 to Dec. 31, 2011	No open season	Sept. 17 to Dec. 31, 2011
F	Sept. 17, 2011(*d*)	Sept. 24 to Dec. 28, 2011(*c*)	Sept. 6 to Sept. 23, 2011(*a*) Sept. 24 to Dec. 21, 2011	Sept. 24, 2011, to Jan. 7, 2012	Sept. 24, 2011, to Jan. 7, 2012	Sept. 17 to Dec. 31, 2011
G	Sept. 17, 2011	Sept. 24 to Dec. 26, 2011	Sept. 24 to Dec. 26, 2011	Nov. 1, 2011, to Feb. 14, 2012	No open season	Sept. 24 to Dec. 26, 2011

(*a*) In Districts C, D, E and F, hunting for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese is allowed only on farmland.
(*b*) In District B along the northern shore west of the Natashquan River, the hunting seasons for eiders and Long-tailed Ducks are from October 1 to October 24, 2011, inclusive and from November 15, 2011, to February 5, 2012, inclusive.
(*c*) In District E, the hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneye and Common Goldeneye closes on October 21, 2011, in Provincial Hunting Zone 21 and 100 metres beyond this zone. In District F, the hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneye and Common Goldeneye closes on October 21, 2011, between Pointe Jureux (St. Irénée) and Gros Cap à l'Aigle (St. Fidèle) from routes 362 and 138 to 2 kilometres within Provincial Hunting Zone 21.
(*d*) In District F, hunting for coots and moorhens is allowed during Waterfowler Heritage Day.

Hunting Districts



BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN QUEBEC

Limits	Ducks	Geese (other than Snow Geese)	Snow Geese	Coots and moorhens	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(*a*)(*b*)(*c*)(*f*)	5(*d*)(*f*)	20(*f*)	4(*f*)	8(*e*)(*f*)	10(*f*)
Possession	18(*a*)(*b*)(*c*)(*f*)	20	60	12	24	30

(*a*) Not more than 4 American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of 8 in Districts A, B, C, D, E, F (east of Route 155 and Highway 55) and G.
(*b*) Not more than 2 American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of 4 in District F (west of Route 155 and Highway 55). Beginning on November 1, 2011, not more than 4 American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of 8 in District F (only lying east of Gatineau River).
(*c*) Not more than 1 Barrow's Goldeneye or Blue-winged Teal may be taken daily, with a possession limit of 2.
(*d*) Not more than 10 Canada Geese, Cackling Geese or any combination of the two may be taken daily between September 1 and 25, 2011, in accordance with the open seasons table.
(*e*) For non-residents of Canada, not more than 4 woodcock may be taken daily.
(*f*) Not more than 3 birds in total may be taken or possessed during Waterfowler Heritage Days, but the additional species restrictions described in notes (*b*) and (*c*) apply within that total.

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that the additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted **only** during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2011–2012 federal permits.

MEASURES IN QUEBEC CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
District A	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10, 2011, and May 1 to June 30, 2012	Recorded bird calls(*d*)(*f*)
District B	Sept. 17 to Dec. 31, 2011	Recorded bird calls(*d*)(*f*)
Districts C and D	Sept. 1 to Sept. 16, 2011(*a*), and Sept. 17 to Dec. 31, 2011, and March 1 to May 31, 2012(*a*)	Recorded bird calls(*d*)(*f*)
District E	Sept. 1 to Sept. 16, 2011(*a*), and Sept. 17 to Dec. 31, 2011, and March 1 to May 31, 2012(*a*)	Recorded bird calls(*d*)(*f*) and bait or bait crop area(*e*)
District F	Sept. 6 to Sept. 23, 2011(*a*), and Sept. 24, 2011, to Jan. 7, 2012, and March 1 to May 31, 2012(*a*)(*b*)(*c*)	Recorded bird calls(*d*)(*f*) and bait or bait crop area(*e*)
District G	Sept. 24 to Dec. 26, 2011	Recorded bird calls(*d*)(*f*)

(*a*) Hunting and hunting equipment are allowed only on farmland.
(*b*) In District F, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the road right-of-way of Route 132 between the western limit of the municipality of Montmagny and the eastern limit of the municipality of Cap-Saint-Ignace.
(*c*) In District F, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt north of the St. Lawrence River and south of a line located at 1000 m north of Highway 40 between Montée St-Laurent and the Maskinongé River. On the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the railroad right-of-way located near Route 132 between the Nicolet River in the east and Lacerte Road in the west.
(*d*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.
(*e*) Hunting with bait or in a bait crop area is permitted if the Regional Director has given consent in writing pursuant to section 23.3.
(*f*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used, but if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

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Ontario

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2011–2012

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Environment Canada Regional Headquarters
Wildlife Enforcement Division
Regional Headquarters
867 Lakeshore Road, P.O. Box 5050
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6
Tel.: 905-336-6410
www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe

Southern District
Burlington – 905-319-6968
Windsor – 519-257-6374

Central District
Toronto – 905-612-5542

Eastern and Northern District
Ottawa – 613-990-5406
Sault Ste. Marie – 705-941-5469

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2011–2012 federal permits.

Note that south of the French and Mattawa rivers, Sunday gun hunting is permitted by provincial regulations in some municipalities, but not all. Season dates for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese in the Southern District may differ between municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is permitted and those where it is not. Hunters should consult the provincial regulations for information about Wildlife Management Unit boundaries and a list of municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is permitted.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

HELPFUL TIP
Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

Hunting Districts

1. **Hudson–James Bay District**
   Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B, and the portions of Wildlife Management Units 1D, 25, and 26 lying east of longitude 83°45′and north of latitude 51°
2. **Northern District**
   Wildlife Management Unit 1C, those parts of 1D, 25, and 26 lying west of longitude 83°45′and south of latitude 51°, and Wildlife Management Units 2 to 24, 27 to 41, and 45
3. **Central District**
   Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44 and 46 to 59
4. **Southern District**
   Wildlife Management Units 60A and 61 to 95

OPEN SEASONS IN ONTARIO (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), moorhens, coots, snipe and geese (other than Canada Geese and Cackling Geese)	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Woodcock
1. Hudson–James Bay District	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15, 2011
2. Northern District	Sept. 10 to Dec. 25, 2011(*a*)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011	Sept. 15 to Dec. 15, 2011
3. Central District	Sept. 17, 2011, to Jan. 1, 2012(*b*)	Sept. 6 to Dec. 21, 2011	Sept. 20 to Dec. 20, 2011
4. Southern District	Sept. 24, 2011, to Jan. 8, 2012(*c*)(*d*)	Sept. 8 to Sept. 18, 2011(*g*) Sept. 24 to Dec. 28, 2011(*e*) Sept. 24, 2011, to Jan. 7, 2012(*f*)(*g*) Feb. 25 to March 3, 2012(*f*)(*g*)(*h*)	Sept. 25 to Dec. 20, 2011

(*a*) Except for American Black Duck, for which the open season begins on September 10 and ends on December 15, 2011.
(*b*) Except for American Black Duck, for which the open season begins on September 17 and ends on December 20, 2011.
(*c*) Except for American Black Duck, for which the open season begins on September 24 and ends on December 20, 2011.
(*d*) In Wildlife Management Unit 65, Snow Goose call recordings may be used, but if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.
(*e*) In municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is permitted.
(*f*) In municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is not permitted.
(*g*) No person shall hunt Canada Geese or Cackling Geese by any means on Sundays during the hunting season in municipalities where Sunday hunting with a gun is not permitted by provincial regulations.
(*h*) Except in Wildlife Management Unit 94.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ONTARIO

Limits	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	White-fronted Geese and Brant	Snow Geese	Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails) and snipe	Moorhens	Woodcock and coots
Daily bags	6(*a*)(*b*)	5(*c*)(*d*)(*e*)(*f*)(*g*)	5	20	10	4	8
Possession	18(*a*)(*b*)	24	15	60	30	12	24

(*a*) Not more than 1 American Black Duck may be taken daily and not more than 3 American Black Ducks may be possessed in Central and Southern districts, and not more than 2 American Black Ducks may be taken daily and not more than 6 American Black Ducks may be possessed in Hudson–James Bay and Northern districts.
(*b*) Not more than 1 Barrow's Goldeneye may be taken daily and not more than 3 Barrow's Goldeneye may be possessed.
(*c*) A total of not more than 3 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in that portion of Wildlife Management Unit 1D in Hudson–James Bay District, and in Wildlife Management Units 23 to 31 and 37 to 41 from September 10 to December 16, 2011.
(*d*) A total of not more than 2 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Unit 94 from September 24, 2011, to January 7, 2012.
(*e*) A total of not more than 3 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Units 82 to 86 and 93 from September 24 to October 31, 2011.
(*f*) A total of 5 additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Units 36 and 45 from September 1 to September 9, 2011, in Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44 and 46 to 59 from September 6 to September 16, 2011, in Wildlife Management Units 60 to 81, 87 to 92 and 95 from September 8 to September 18, 2011, and in municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is not permitted in Wildlife Management Units 60 to 81 and 87 to 92 from February 25 to March 3, 2012.
(*g*) A total of 3 additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Units 82 to 86, 93 and 94 from September 8 to September 18, 2011, and in municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is not permitted in Wildlife Management Units 82 to 86 and 93 from February 25 to March 3, 2012.

MEASURES IN ONTARIO CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Wildlife Management Unit 65	March 1 to May 31, 2012(*a*)	Recorded bird calls(*b*)(*c*)

(*a*) Hunting and hunting equipment are allowed only on farmland.
(*b*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.
(*c*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used, but if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

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Manitoba

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2011–2012

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
Suite 150
123 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4W2
Tel.: 204-983-5262

Game Bird Hunting Zones

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

OPEN SEASONS IN MANITOBA

Game Bird Hunting Zone	Ducks and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks, geese, coots and snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks, Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, coots and snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snow and Ross's geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Zone No. 1	N/A	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011(*a*)	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011(*a*)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, 2011	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011(*a*)
Zone No. 2	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7, 2011	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30, 2011(*a*)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30, 2011(*a*)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, 2011	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30, 2011(*a*)
Zone No. 3	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7, 2011	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30, 2011(*a*)	Sept. 24 to Nov. 30, 2011(*a*)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, 2011	Sept. 17 to Nov. 30, 2011(*a*)
Zone No. 4	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7, 2011	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30, 2011(*a*)	Sept. 24 to Nov. 30, 2011(*a*)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, 2011	Sept. 17 to Nov. 30, 2011(*a*)

(*a*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used, but if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN MANITOBA

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted geese, and Brant) RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Dark geese (Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted geese, and Brant) NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(*a*)	8(*c*)	20	8	5	5	8	10
Possession	24(*b*)	24(*d*)	80	24	15	15	24	30

(*a*) In Zone 4 for residents, not more than 4 may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(*b*) In Zone 4 for residents, not more than 12 may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(*c*) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than 2 may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(*d*) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than 6 may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

NOTE

The open season for hunting geese by non-residents of Canada in Game Bird Hunting Zone 4, and the Provincial Game Hunting Areas 13A, 14, 14A, all that portion of Game Hunting Area 16 south of the north limit of township 33, Game Hunting Areas 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 19B, 20, 21A, 23A and 25 as described in Manitoba Regulation 220/86 as filed on September 25, 1986, includes only that part of each day from one half-hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from the opening date (September 24, 2011) up to and including the second Sunday of October 2011, and thereafter geese may be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset. However, during the first week of the non-resident Snow and Ross's geese season (beginning on September 17, 2011), these species may be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset.

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details.

NOTE

Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2011–2012 federal permits.

MEASURES IN MANITOBA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Zone 1	Aug. 15 to Aug. 31, 2011, and April 1 to May 31, 2012	Recorded bird calls(*a*)(*b*)
Zones 2, 3 and 4	April 1 to May 31, 2012	Recorded bird calls(*a*)(*b*)

(*a*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.
(*b*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese. If those recordings are used with decoys, the decoys must represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them only.

Canada

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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2011–2012

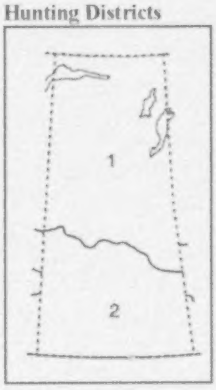
Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
115 Perimeter Road
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4
Tel.: 306-975-4919

Hunting Districts



District No. 1 (North) Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43 and 47 to 76 inclusive.

District No. 2 (South) Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 1 to 42 inclusive and 44 to 46 inclusive.

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

NOTE
Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2011–2012 federal permits.

HELPFUL TIP
Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

OPEN SEASONS IN SASKATCHEWAN

District	Ducks, coots and snipe	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Dark geese (Canada, Cackling and White-fronted geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes
No. 1 (North)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011(*d*)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011(*d*)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011
No. 2 (South)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011(*a*)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011(*b*)(*d*)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011(*d*)	Sept. 10 to Dec. 16, 2011	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011(*c*)

(*a*) Falconry season is open from September 1 to December 16, 2011, inclusive.
(*b*) Except White-fronted Geese, the open season for residents of Canada for White-fronted Geese is from September 10 to December 16, 2011, inclusive.
(*c*) The Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all Sandhill Crane hunting.
(*d*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used, but if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

NOTE

The open season for geese for residents and non-residents of Canada in District No. 2 (South), and the Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43, 47 to 59 inclusive, and 67 to 69 inclusive, of District No. 1 (North), includes only that part of each day from one half-hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from September 1 to October 14, 2011, inclusive, and on and after October 15, 2011, geese may be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset, except east of 106 degrees west longitude, where, on and after September 1, 2011, white geese (Snow and Ross's geese) may be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset. Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all hunting until September 20, 2011.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Limits	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada, Cackling and White-fronted geese)	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(*a*)	20	8(*c*)	5	10	10
Possession	24(*b*)	60	24(*d*)	15	30	30

(*a*) Not more than 3 may be Northern Pintails.
(*b*) Not more than 9 may be Northern Pintails.
(*c*) For residents of Canada, not more than 5 may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than 4 may be White-fronted Geese.
(*d*) For residents of Canada, not more than 15 may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than 12 may be White-fronted Geese.

MEASURES IN SASKATCHEWAN CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
East of 106° W longitude	April 1 to May 31, 2012	Recorded bird calls(*a*)(*b*)
West of 106° W longitude	April 1 to April 30, 2012	Recorded bird calls(*a*)(*b*)

(*a*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.
(*b*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used, but if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

Cranes

Where the Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service or the Chief Provincial Game Officer of Saskatchewan is of the opinion that Whooping Cranes may be in the Saskatchewan Sandhill Crane Management Area during the open season for Sandhill Cranes in that area, such officer may prohibit the hunting of Sandhill Cranes in that area, and thereafter no person shall hunt or kill Sandhill Cranes in that area in that year.

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CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2011–2012

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
4999-98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
Tel.: 780-951-8891

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

Hunting Zones

Hunters are advised to pay particular attention to the Alberta Hunting Guide to ensure that they are hunting for the correct species in the correct wildlife management unit during the permitted times and dates. Note that these zone numbers do not correspond to regions as presented in the Guide.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Days: Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

OPEN SEASONS IN ALBERTA

Area	Ducks, coots and snipe	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada, Cackling and White-fronted geese)	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Falconry season for ducks, coots and snipe
Zones* 1(*a*), 2, 3, 4 and 8	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011(*b*)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011		Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011
Zones* 5, 6 and 7	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21, 2011	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21, 2011(*b*)	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21, 2011	Sept. 3 to Sept. 4, 2011	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21, 2011

* "**Zone No. 1**" means that part of Alberta included in Provincial Wildlife Management Units (PWMUs) 501 to 506, 509 to 512, 514 to 519, 529 to 532, and 841.
"**Zone No. 2**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 344, 347, 349 to 360, 520 to 528, 534 to 537, 539 to 542, and 544.
"**Zone No. 3**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 200, 202 to 204, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, and 500.
"**Zone No. 4**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 206, 208, 216, 220 to 222, 224, 226, 228, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336 to 340, 342, 346, 348, 429, 507, 508, and 936.
"**Zone No. 5**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 151, 160, 162 to 164, and 166.
"**Zone No. 6**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 152, 156, 158, 210, 212, 214, 300, 302 to 306, 308, 310, 312, and 314.
"**Zone No. 7**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 144, 148, and 150.
"**Zone No. 8**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 316, 318, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416 to 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436 to 442, 444 to 446.

(*a*) Except that Alberta Wildlife Management Unit 841 in Zone 1 has an opening date of September 15, 2011.

(*b*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used, but if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ALBERTA

Limits	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada, Cackling and White-fronted geese)	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(*a*)	20	8(*c*)	8	8
Possession	24(*b*)	60	24(*d*)	24	24

(*a*) Not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails.
(*b*) Not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails.
(*c*) For Canadian residents, not more than 5 may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than 4 may be White-fronted Geese.
(*d*) For Canadian residents, not more than 15 may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than 12 may be White-fronted Geese.

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ISSN 1925-6949

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2011–2012

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre
R.R. 1, 5421 Robertson Road
Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2
Tel.: 604-940-4710

Hunting Districts

1. Provincial Management Units (PMU) 1-1 to 1-15
2. PMU 2-2 to 2-19
3. PMU 3-12 to 3-20 and 3-26 to 3-44
4. PMU 4-1 to 4-9 and 4-14 to 4-40
5. PMU 5-1 to 5-15
6. PMU 6-1 to 6-30
7. PMU 7-2 to 7-58
8. PMU 8-1 to 8-15 and 8-21 to 8-26

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Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca.

OPEN SEASONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

District	Ducks and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks, coots and snipe	Snow and Ross's geese	Other geese	Brant	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
No. 1	Oct. 1 and Oct. 2, 2011	Oct. 8, 2011, to Jan. 20, 2012	Oct. 8, 2011, to Jan. 20, 2012	Oct. 8, 2011, to Jan. 20, 2012(*a*) Sept. 3 to Sept. 11, 2011(*b*)(*c*) Oct. 8 to Nov. 20, 2011(*b*)(*c*) Dec. 17, 2011, to Jan. 8, 2012(*b*)(*c*) Feb. 11 to March 10, 2012(*b*)(*c*)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30, 2011	No open season
No. 2	Sept. 3 and Sept. 4, 2011(*e*)(*f*) Oct. 1 and Oct. 2, 2011(*d*)	Oct. 8, 2011, to Jan. 20, 2012(*c*)(*g*) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23, 2011(*e*)	Oct. 8, 2011, to Jan. 1, 2012(*h*) Feb. 21 to March 10, 2012(*h*)	Oct. 8, 2011, to Jan. 20, 2012(*i*) Sept. 3 to Sept. 11, 2011(*c*)(*j*) Oct. 8 to Nov. 20, 2011(*c*)(*j*) Dec. 17, 2011, to Jan. 8, 2012(*c*)(*j*) Feb. 11 to March 10, 2012(*c*)(*j*) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23, 2011(*e*)(*k*)	March 1 to March 10, 2012(*c*)(*l*)	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30, 2011(*m*)	No open season
No. 3	Sept. 3 and Sept. 4, 2011	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23, 2011	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23, 2011	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23, 2011(*n*) Sept. 10 to Sept. 20, 2011(*o*) Oct. 1 to Dec. 23, 2011(*o*) March 1 to March 10, 2012(*o*)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30, 2011(*p*)	Sept 1. to Sept. 30, 2011
No. 4	Sept. 3 and Sept. 4, 2011	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23, 2011	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23, 2011	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23, 2011	No open season	No open season	Sept 1. to Sept. 30, 2011
No. 5	Sept. 10 and Sept. 11, 2011	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25, 2011	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25, 2011	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25, 2011	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 6	Sept. 3 and Sept. 4, 2011(*q*)(*r*)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 2 and Sept. 5 to Nov. 30, 2011(*q*) Oct. 1, 2011, to Jan. 13, 2012(*r*)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 2 and Sept. 5 to Nov. 30, 2011(*q*) Oct. 1, 2011, to Jan. 13, 2012(*r*)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 2 and Sept. 5 to Nov. 30, 2011(*q*) Oct. 1, 2011, to Jan. 13, 2012(*r*)	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 7	Sept. 1 and Sept. 2, 2011(*s*) Sept 10 and Sept. 11, 2011(*t*)	Sept. 3 to Nov. 30, 2011(*s*) Sept. 1 to Sept. 9 and Sept. 12 to Nov. 30, 2011(*t*)	Sept. 3 to Nov. 30, 2011(*s*) Sept. 1 to Sept. 9 and Sept. 12 to Nov. 30, 2011(*t*)	Sept. 3 to Nov. 30, 2011(*s*) Sept. 1 to Sept. 9 and Sept. 12 to Nov. 30, 2011(*t*)	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 8	Sept. 3 and Sept. 4, 2011	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25, 2011	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25, 2011	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25, 2011(*u*) Sept. 20 to Nov. 28, 2011(*k*) Dec. 20, 2011, to Jan. 5, 2012(*k*) Feb. 22 to March 10, 2012(*k*)	No open season	No open season	Sept 1. to Sept. 30, 2011

(*a*) Provincial Management Units 1-3, and 1-8 to 1-15 inclusive, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.
(*b*) Provincial Management Units 1-1, 1-2, and 1-4 to 1-7 inclusive, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.
(*c*) See provincial regulations for local restrictions.
(*d*) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive, and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive for ducks, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only, and additionally, in Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only, for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.
(*e*) Provincial Management Unit 2-11 only.
(*f*) For ducks, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.
(*g*) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive, and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive.
(*h*) Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only.
(*i*) Provincial Management Units 2-5 to 2-7 inclusive, 2-9, 2-10, and 2-12 to 2-17 inclusive only, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.
(*j*) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.
(*k*) For Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.
(*l*) Provincial Management Unit 2-4 only.
(*m*) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-19 inclusive.
(*n*) Provincial Management Units 3-12 to 3-18 inclusive, 3-30 to 3-35 inclusive, and 3-38 to 3-44 inclusive, for White-fronted, Canada and Cackling geese, and Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, 3-26 to 3-29 inclusive, 3-36, and 3-37 for White-fronted Geese only.
(*o*) Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, 3-26 to 3-29 inclusive, 3-36, and 3-37, for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.
(*p*) Provincial Management Units 3-13 to 3-17 inclusive.
(*q*) Provincial Management Units 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 inclusive, and 6-15 to 6-30 inclusive only.
(*r*) Provincial Management Units 6-3, and 6-11 to 6-14 inclusive only.
(*s*) Provincial Management Units 7-19 to 7-22 inclusive, 7-31 to 7-36 inclusive, and 7-42 to 7-58 inclusive.
(*t*) Provincial Management Units 7-2 to 7-18 inclusive, 7-23 to 7-30 inclusive, and 7-37 to 7-41 inclusive.
(*u*) For White-fronted Geese only.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Limits	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Canada, Cackling and White-fronted geese	Brant	Coots and snipe	Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves
Daily bags	8(*a*)(*c*)(*e*)(*i*)	5, 10(*k*)	5(*l*)	2(*g*)	10	5
Possession	16(*b*)(*d*)(*f*)(*j*)	10, 20(*k*)	10(*m*)	4(*h*)	20	10

(*a*) Not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails.
(*b*) Not more than 8 may be Northern Pintails.
(*c*) Not more than 4 may be Canvasbacks.
(*d*) Not more than 8 may be Canvasbacks.
(*e*) Not more than 2 may be goldeneyes.
(*f*) Not more than 4 may be goldeneyes.
(*g*) Not more than 2 may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.
(*h*) Not more than 4 may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.
(*i*) Not more than 2 may be Harlequin Ducks.
(*j*) Not more than 4 may be Harlequin Ducks.
(*k*) For Snow Geese only and in Provincial Management Unit 2-4 and 2-5 only.
(*l*) A total of not more than 5 Canada, Cackling or White-fronted geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily, except in MUs 2-2 to 2-4, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 where 5 Canada Geese may be taken in addition to any other species of geese taken in Region 2.
(*m*) A total of not more than 10 Canada, Cackling or White-fronted geese, or any combination of them, except in MUs 2-2 to 2-4, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 where 10 Canada Geese may be possessed in addition to any other species of geese possessed in Region 2.

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Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Division
Environment Canada
5019, 52 Street
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2P7
Tel.: 867-669-4788

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

HELPFUL TIP
Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

OPEN SEASONS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Area	Ducks, geese, coots and snipe
Throughout the Northwest Territories	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10, 2011

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bag	25	8	15	5(*a*)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit	16	No limit	10(*a*)	No limit	No limit	20

(*a*) Except that non-residents may not take more than 2 White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than 4.

NOTE
No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

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Yukon Territory

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2011–2012

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Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
91782 Alaska Highway
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5B7
Tel.: 867-667-4597

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

HELPFUL TIP
Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

Hunting Areas

Northern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying north of latitude 66°
Central Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying between latitude 62° and 66°
Southern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying south of latitude 62°

OPEN SEASONS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Area	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Northern Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31, 2011, for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011, for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31, 2011, for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011, for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	No open season	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31, 2011, for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011, for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31, 2011, for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011, for non-residents of the Yukon Territory
Central Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31, 2011, for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011, for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31, 2011, for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011, for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31, 2011, for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011, for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31, 2011, for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011, for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31, 2011, for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011, for non-residents of the Yukon Territory
Southern Yukon Territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2011

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Daily bag	8(*a*)	5(*b*)	2	0(*c*)	10
Possession	24(*a*)	15(*b*)	4	0(*c*)	30(*d*)

(*a*) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 17 additional ducks may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(*b*) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 10 additional geese may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(*c*) Except that in the Central and Northern Yukon Territory, 25 rails and coots may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(*d*) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory, there is no possession limit.

NOTE

No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2011–2012

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Division
Environment Canada
5019, 52 Street
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2P7
Tel.: 867-669-4788

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

NOTE
Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2011–2012 federal permits.

HELPFUL TIP
Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

OPEN SEASONS IN NUNAVUT

Area	Ducks, geese, coots and snipe
Throughout Nunavut	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10, 2011(*a*)

(*a*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used, but if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

MEASURES IN NUNAVUT CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Item	Column 1 Area	Column 2 Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Column 3 Additional hunting method or equipment
1.	Throughout Nunavut	May 1 to June 7, 2012	Recorded bird calls(*a*)(*b*)
2.	Throughout Nunavut	Aug. 15 to Aug. 31, 2011	Recorded bird calls(*a*)(*b*)

(*a*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.
(*b*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used, but if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NUNAVUT

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bag	25(*c*)(*g*)	8(*c*)(*g*)	15(*b*)(*e*)(*i*)	5(*a*)(*b*)(*e*)(*i*)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit(*d*)(*h*)	16(*d*)(*h*)	No limit(*b*)(*f*)	10(*a*)(*b*)(*f*)(*j*)	No limit	No limit	20

(*a*) Except that non-residents may not take more than 2 White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than 4.
(*b*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located west of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, not more than a total of 3 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily, and not more than a total of 24 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be possessed.
(*c*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located west of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, the daily bag limit for ducks is 6, with not more than 2 American Black Ducks and 1 Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*d*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located west of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than 4 American Black Ducks and 2 Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*e*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, the daily bag limit is 20 Snow Geese, and a total of 5 other geese.
(*f*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, the possession limit is 60 Snow Geese, and a total of 20 other geese.
(*g*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, the daily bag limit for ducks is 6, with not more than 4 American Black Ducks, 1 Barrow's Goldeneye and 1 Blue-winged Teal.
(*h*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than 8 American Black Ducks, 2 Barrow's Goldeneye and 2 Blue-winged Teal.
(*i*) Except that the daily bag limit for Snow Geese is 20.
(*j*) Except that the possession limit for Snow Geese by non-residents is 80.

NOTE

No person shall hunt earlier than one half-hour before sunrise or later than one half-hour after sunset, except north of the 60th parallel, where no person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

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